Masked men kill ex-mayor, 3 others in Cotabato City

Story on PAGE A2

IN*Saturday Special*

SANTOS

- Vilma Santos topbills new TV-film projects
- Young 'Harry Potter' stars have great time shooting sequel

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

More al-Qaida targets in region exposed

By TJ Burgonio

INTELLIGENCE officials believe that a terror plot by the al-Qaida network to mark the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States targeted Southeast Asian countries, including others not previously described as terrorist targets.

An intelligence report obtained by the INQUIRER listed Taiwan, Vietnam and

MORE/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Saturday, November 2, 2002 ★ 56 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 272   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Joma: War to get fiercer

EU blacklist may scuttle talks, says Red leader

By TJ Burgonio, *in Manila*
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JOSE Ma. Sison yesterday assailed the European Union, saying its decision to put him and the New People's Army on its terrorist list endangered his life and paved the way for "fiercer armed revolution."

Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines who has lived in self-exile in the Netherlands for more than a decade, said the EU's move was "calculated to create a political climate" for his extradition and assassination.

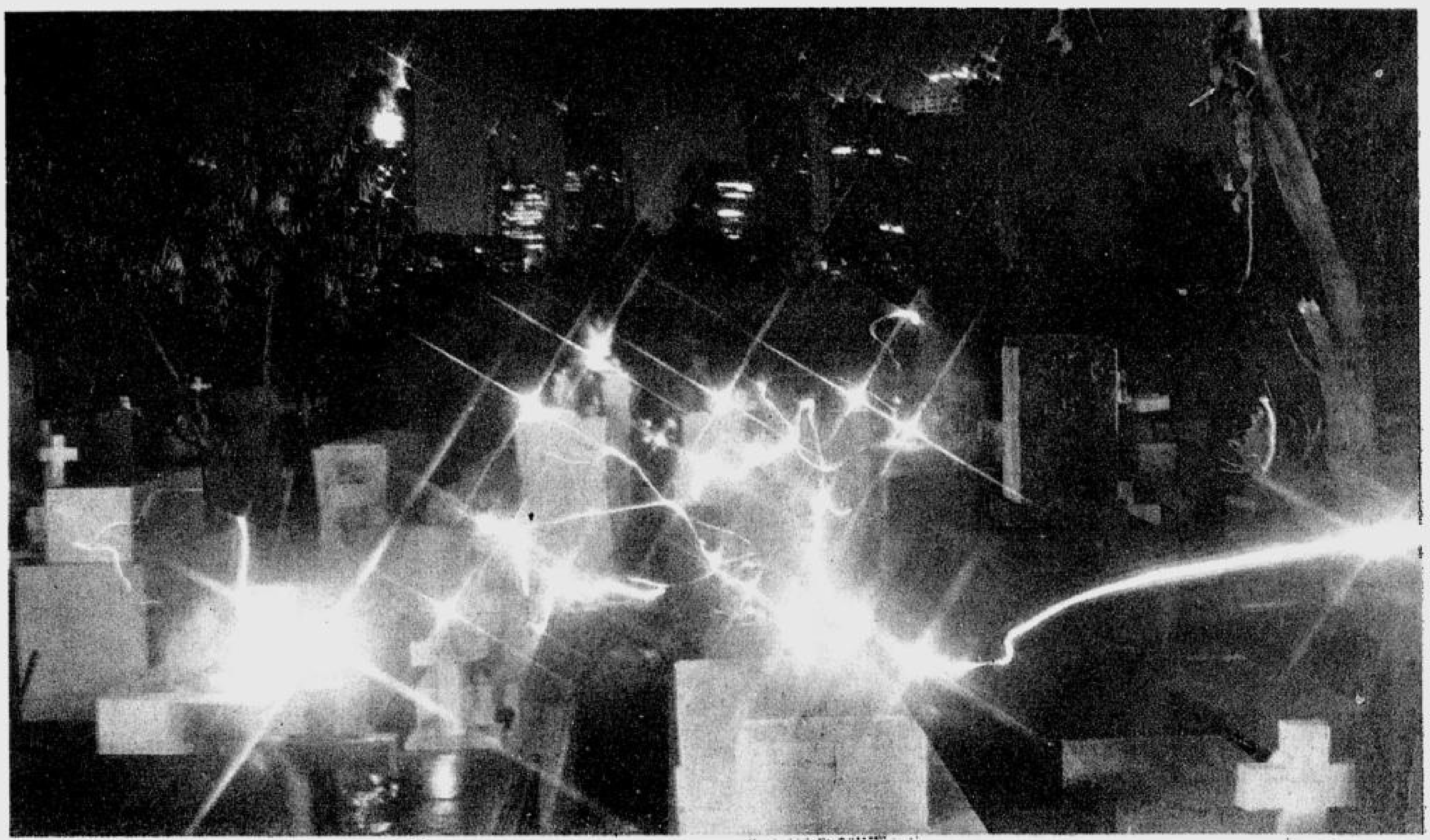
"I have to guard against foul play by the agents of US imperialism who are now thrilled by the propensity of (US President George W.) Bush for aggressive war and by his lifting of the ban on assassination of leaders opposed to US imperialism," Sison said in a statement sent from Utrecht.

Sison accused the European Union of violating his human rights under pressure from the US government and the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"My democratic rights are viciously violated," he said. "I am criminalized as a 'terrorist' without due process. I am defamed and demonized. My life is being threatened. I suffer moral and material damages."

In response to a question e-mailed to him by the INQUIRER in Lucena City, Sison warned of in-

JOMA/ A18



REALM OF THE SPIRITS
Lighted candles on top of tombs at the South Cemetery in Makati City on All Saints' Day emit an eerie glow that creates an impression of the world of the supernatural. The digital image was taken with an f2.8 camera lens opening, cross-filter, a four-second time exposure and set at ISO 400 speed.
EDWIN BACASMAS

EU declaration sets back peace process—Guingona

By Norman Bordadora
and Martin P. Marfil

THE EUROPEAN Union's blacklisting of Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army will serve as an obstacle to the Philippine government's program to draw insurgents into the mainstream of society, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said yesterday.

"It is a step backward, especially since it would seem that the government was behind the initiatives to have the NPA declared a terrorist group," Guingona told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "One needs to make a distinction between a rebel who is fighting because of hunger and perceived injustice, and a terrorist who seeks to sow terror and hatred."

Guingona's views run contrary to those of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who earlier announced that the EU decision would pressure the communist insurgents to lay down arms and resume formal peace negotiations.

The Vice President expressed concern that the government's peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front could be canceled altogether because "one cannot separate (the NPA from the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NDF)."

But the blacklisting has boosted the morale of the Philippine military, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

"(It) has created a stronger resolve among the men and women of the AFP to deal these rebels a decisive blow that will hopefully bring them to the negotiating table ... " Defensor said in a statement.

"The AFP will not rest on its laurels. We are powering up for more aggressive operations against the NPA now that they have lost face not only among our countrymen but also in the eyes of the world," he said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the blacklisting was a "major strategic setback for the

EU/ A18

Bacolod's house of (restless) spirits

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—When one walks into his family's house on Aguinaldo Street, says Carlos Benedict Rivilla, "you get this heavy feeling."

"I can feel it because I grew up in the house and I should know," Carlos adds.

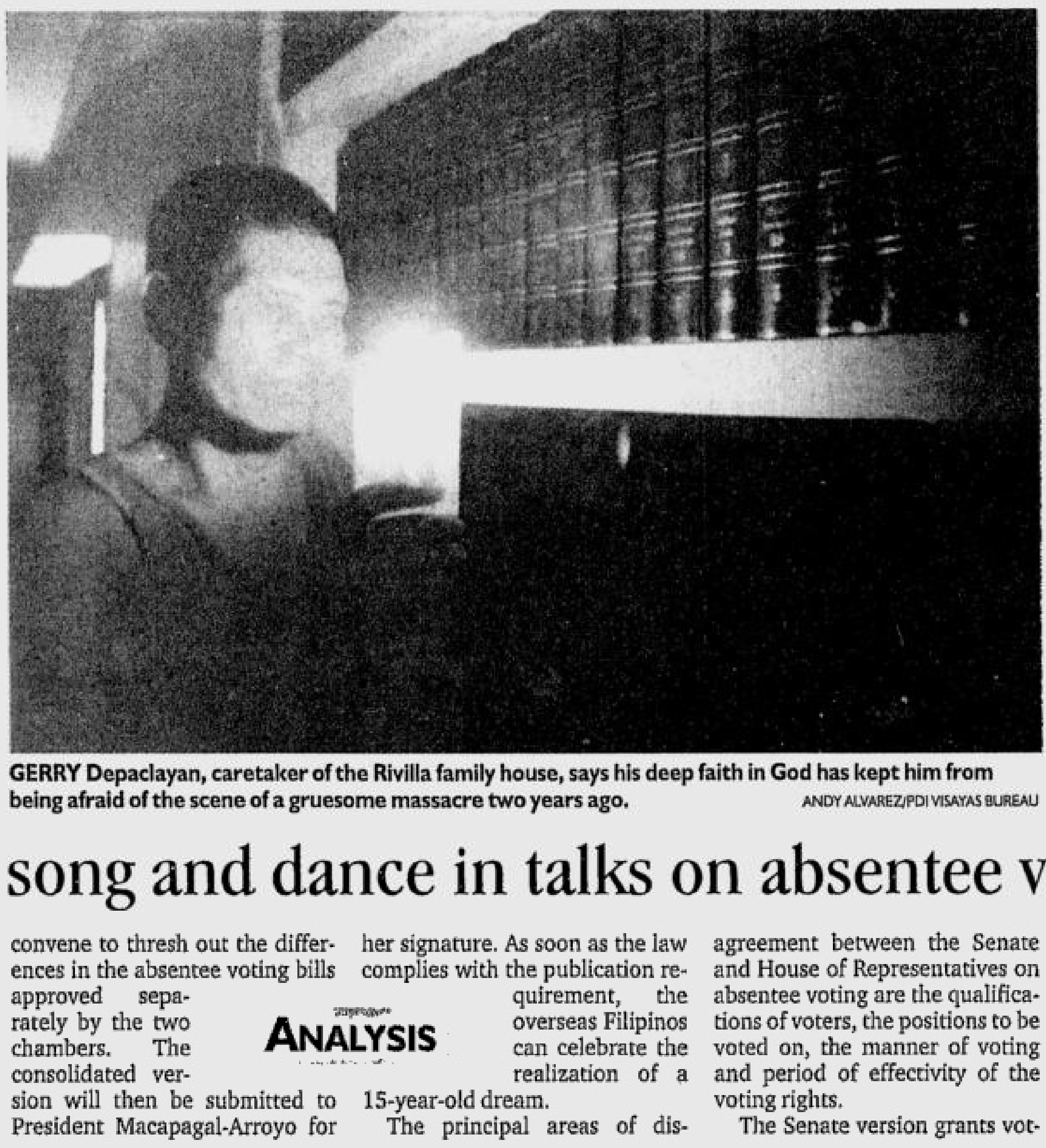
On Dec. 17, 2000, the house witnessed a terrible tragedy: Six members of the landed Rivilla family and two of their maids were slain in an orgy of violence.

"After 6 p.m., that feeling of heaviness gets worse and it's eerie," says Carlos, a lawyer who now lives in Metro Manila.

He told the INQUIRER that he believed his grandfather, Carlos Jr., was already at peace because he was a very spiritual man. "(But) I know the children are still crying and my uncle (Benrico) is not at peace."

Carlos Jr., 76, was found sprawled in his own blood in the kitchen of the main house. His

BACOLOD'S/ A6



GERRY Depaclayan, caretaker of the Rivilla family house, says his deep faith in God has kept him from being afraid of the scene of a gruesome massacre two years ago.
ANDY ALVAREZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Basilan folk live with dead

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—The day before yesterday, Ellen Alejandro was busy weeding out the left side of her front yard.

No, she wasn't seized by a sudden gardening impulse.

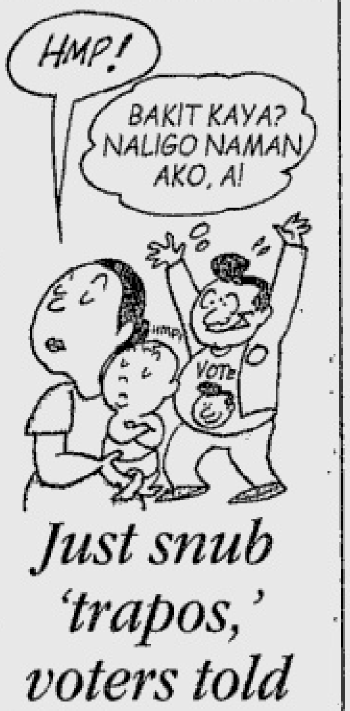
Like most residents of Basilan, Alejandro, 36, of Barangay Lanote, was simply cleaning her parents' graveyard, in time for today's celebration of All Souls' Day.

"It's not only my parents who are buried here but my grandparents and two uncles as well," she told the INQUIRER.

Basileños do have public cemeteries, Alejandro said, but many bury their dead near their homes. "Nobody should question our practice," she added.

In Barangay Tabiawan, houses

BASILAN/ A6


HMP!
BAKIT KAYA? NALIGO NAMAN AKO, A!
HMP!
VOTE

Just snub 'trapos,' voters told

By Volt Contreras

IGNORE them. Don't fall all over yourselves when they're around.

Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco, chair of the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (KPK), yesterday said believers in the fledgling party's ideals could start reinventing Philippine politics by giving the "silent treatment" to "*trapos*," or politicians of questionable character and capability.

"Don't invite them to speaking engagements or graduations," he said.

JUST/ A6

Expect a song and dance in talks on absentee voting bill

By Raul J. Palabrica

ANALYSIS

THREE more steps have to be completed before expatriate Filipinos can enjoy the right to vote in our national elections.

The bicameral conference committee of Congress has to convene to thresh out the differences in the absentee voting bills approved separately by the two chambers. The consolidated version will then be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her signature. As soon as the law complies with the publication requirement, the overseas Filipinos can celebrate the realization of a 15-year-old dream.

The principal areas of disagreement between the Senate and House of Representatives on absentee voting are the qualifications of voters, the positions to be voted on, the manner of voting and period of effectivity of the voting rights.

The Senate version grants voting rights to all Filipino citizens living or working abroad, 18 years and above, including those who are already immigrants of the country where they reside. Voting is limited to the President, Vice President, senators and par-

EXPECT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Northern and Central Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/02/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Ex-mayor, 3 others slain in Cotabato

By Edwin O. Fernandez
and Charlie C. Senase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MASKED men armed with automatic rifles killed a former town mayor and his three companions in Cotabato City on Thursday evening, a day after a bomb exploded inside the compound of a radio station in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. No one was injured in the blast.

"Personal grudge" was eyed as a possible motive in the killing of ex-Mayor Karim Ali Daud of Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, two security escorts and his driver. But authorities were still unsure whether the bombing in Tawi-Tawi was a terrorist attack or not.

Meanwhile, a ranking member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was arrested for allegedly carrying a homemade bomb past a military checkpoint in Alamada, North Cotabato, the military said yesterday.

Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, Cotabato City police director, said Daud, prominently known here as Kling, was in a blue Mitsubishi Adventure van with his escorts and on his way home when the suspects attacked around 9:30 pm.

The suspects positioned themselves a few meters from Daud's residence on Teodoro V. Juliano Avenue.

Dampac said it appeared that Daud, who owns a fleet of wooden-hulled boats plying the Cotabato-Pagadian City route and to the coastal towns of Sultan Kudarat, knew his assassins.

"The hand brake of Daud's car was engaged, an indication the vehicle was stopped. Then it was peppered with bullets," he said.

Citing witnesses' accounts, Dampac said the suspects allegedly talked with the victims before the shooting occurred.

They then fled aboard a tinted van, which was parked near a mosque, after they managed to confirm that the former mayor had died.

Dampac said Daud had sought police assistance a few days ago about threats he was receiving.

"Initially, he did not give me the details. He was to come back on Oct. 30 but he failed to show up," he said.

Hadja Amina Alon, 38, with whom Daud sired two children, was mum about the possible motive of the killers.

"I hope the President can help us find justice by arresting and prosecuting the perpetrators," was all she said in Filipino when the INQUIRER spoke with her.

A close aide of the slain mayor, who asked not to be named, said "certainly (the motive is) personal grudge."

But he declined to elaborate.

Daud, a close ally of former President Fidel Ramos, was declared mayor of Palimbang in 1999 when he won in an election case against Samrod Mamansual.

Mamansual defeated Daud in the 2001 election and is the incumbent.

However, Daud's relatives rejected insinuations the killing could be politically motivated.

The Bongao bomb, said to be an improvised explosive device, exploded at around 9 am inside the compound of radio station DXGD in Barangay Pag-asa.

Military and police personnel, reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said, immediately responded and recovered two more unexploded bombs at the Padel Multi-purpose hall in the vicinity.

The unxploded bombs were said to be homemade dynamite placed inside plastic bottles with blasting caps. *With a report from Martin Marfil; AFP*

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FOLLOWING a wave of bombings in Zamboanga City, ubiquitous checkpoints cause traffic jams in Western Mindanao's major port and commercial center. AP

Ombudsman upholds Nur's arrest

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has declared as legal and valid the arrest and detention of Moro leader Nur Misuari and his six comrades, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez told reporters that Misuari, who faces trial for allegedly leading a rebellion in Jolo, Sulu, and the six others had been validly arrested when they were handed over to the Philippines by Malaysia on Jan. 7.

In a resolution, the Office of the Ombudsman cleared Perez and Interior Secretary Jose Lina of arbitrary detention and delay in the delivery of detained persons in connection with the rebellion case.

Besides Perez and Lina, others exonerated were Interior Undersecretary Abraham Iribarri, Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Director Nestorio Gualberto, PNP Director Lucas Managuelod and Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza.

The resolution was prepared by Ombudsman graft investigator Sherwin Casurao. It was subsequently approved by Assistant Ombudsman Pelagio Apostol and Overall Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio last month.

In exonerating Perez et al., the resolution noted that Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and his men had been charged by the Jolo chief of police for "participating in the armed uprising."

After preliminary investigation, the public prosecutor in Jolo found probable cause to charge Misuari and his comrades with rebellion.

Misuari is now detained inside a police training camp in Silang, Cavite. The others—Abu Harris Osman, Bakil Anay Harun, Akil Abduraman Abdua, Gamar Ben Abdu Rajak, Johan Sawadjaan Sanzibar, Uddin Esguera Ishmael and Amar Ben Abdullah—are held at the Bagong Diwa Detention Center in Bicutan, Taguig.

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UK seeks ban on Abus

LONDON—Britain has moved to ban three further groups accused of links to the al-Qaida network, Abu Sayyaf, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Ansar al-Islam, according to interior ministry documents obtained by AFP on Thursday.

The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is a Philippines-based Moro bandit group notorious for kidnapping foreigners and bombing Christian targets in Mindanao.

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) is fighting to install an Islamic regime in the former Soviet republic.

Ansar al-Islam, a shadowy Islamic group based in Iraqi Kurdistan, is suspected of being behind a series of recent bombings and assassination attempts.

The three groups have two chances to appeal the government decision—with the interior ministry and with an independent appeal commission for banned organizations.

The British government last week announced a ban on Jemaah Islamiah, the militant Southeast Asian group suspected of being behind the Bali bombing that killed more than 190 people, and ordered a freeze on the organization's assets. *AFP*

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Bolton, England, United Kingdom

November 6-7, 2002
Manila Midtown Hotel, Malate, Manila, Philippines

Malaysian in Metro blasts faces execution

By Michael Lim Ubac

A MALAYSIAN suspected of ordering and financing the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila in 2000 faces execution in Singapore for alleged violation of its Internal Security Act.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana could be given the death penalty for allegedly plotting, along with 13 others, to bomb a US warship and foreign embassies in Singapore.

Perez said he had received the information from National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, whom he asked to go to Singapore and inquire about Bafana's status while en route to the Philippines.

According to Perez, Wycoco confirmed in a phone call that Bafana was in police custody in Singapore, and that he would be prosecuted by the military tribunal there.

"Apparently, the penalty is very stiff," Perez said, adding that the gravity of the charge would make it virtually impossible for Singaporean authorities to hand Bafana over to Philippine officials.

The Philippine government wants Bafana deported to Manila to stand trial for illegal possession of explosives. He, along with Malaysian Riduan Isamudin alias Hambali and a Cebu-based businessman, was accordingly charged last week before a court in General Santos City.

Bafana and two others likewise at large are also being investigated in connection with the December 2000 bombings that killed at least 22 people and injured more than 100 others.

In Cotabato City, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is seeking the release of an Afghanistan-trained bomb maker arrested in Alamada, North Cotabato. *With a report from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Oil from Russia assured–JDV

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE COUNTRY'S oil supply is safe and stable even if the United States launches war against Iraq.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. made this assurance from Moscow where he and Energy Secretary Vince Perez just concluded talks with officials of the Russian government and oil companies.

President Macapagal-Arroyo asked the two to look for alternative sources of oil as a contingency measure in case war broke out in the Middle East. The country's principal oil requirements are sourced from Saudi Arabia and other members of the Oil Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"There's no more danger to the Philippines' oil supply because for the first time we will have a significant supply from the Russian far east," De Venecia said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said securing oil from Russia would calm the people's anxieties on the effects of a US showdown with Iraq. A diversified source of oil would also help stabilize prices.

"The presence of many players will help keep prices stable and promote competition so we won't be victims of multinational cartels," he said.

He said the oil from Russia, the world's second largest oil producer, would "complement" the supply from Middle Eastern and Arab countries.

Meetings

De Venecia and Perez met with Speaker of the Russian Parliament Gennady Seleznev, Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kaliuzhny, Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade Valdimir Karastin and senior officials of Yukos and Russneft, the two biggest oil companies in Russia.

"They agreed to augment the current requirements of the Philippines as needed," De Venecia said, adding that the supply would come as soon as arrangements are finalized.

The quantity of oil to be supplied by the Russians would still be assessed by Philippine officials.

De Venecia and Perez proposed to the Russian officials the setting up of a storage facility in Subic and somewhere in northern Mindanao.

Advantage

De Venecia said one of the advantages of importing oil from Russia is its proximity to the country compared to the Middle East. He said the oil would come from the Valdivostok-Nakhodka area which is slightly off Japan and South Korea.

De Venecia said that aside from Russia, the country can count on oil from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Brunei. He said oil would also be sourced from Iran, Qatar and Dubai.

De Venecia said Philippine National Oil Co. president Thelmo Cunanan has secured 600,000 barrels from Indonesia.

Veep: Give LGUs share of price of power produced in their areas

By Norman Bordadora

VICE President Teofisto Guingona has urged the Department of Energy to release the share of local government units in the price paid for electricity produced by power plants in their respective areas.

Guingona wants Energy Secretary Vince Perez to release at least P150 million of the P230 million energy fund to which LGUs are entitled. The fund was built on the one-centavo for every kilowatt-hour produced by the power plants produced in the respective LGUs' localities.

Guingona said the money could go toward the purchase of bomb-sniffing dogs, patrol vehicles and vessels, and communication facilities to help the LGUs protect the power plants in their areas from terrorist attacks.

"Batangas, where 65 percent of the country's energy supply is produced, and Luzon, where 50 percent of the power plants are, are guarded by only one Coast Guard patrol boat with inadequate equipment," Guingona said in a statement.

"LGUs like Batangas could make good use of their energy share to assist the national government in fighting the terrorism now affecting Metro Manila, Zamboanga and other cities," he said.

"Terrorism can be defeated by the concerted effort of all than by merely leaving our fate to the police or the military, which are overburdened by real or imaginary threats from within and without," Guingona said.

Hone skills, DOLE urges health workers

By Blanche S. Rivera

CITING the increased exodus of Filipino health workers to foreign shores, the Department of Labor and Employment has expressed concern over the training and competency of the health professionals who choose to remain in the country.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the government and private sector should take measures to "manage the migration flow" of health workers from the Philippines.

"Effectively managing the migration flow of Filipino health professionals means balancing the supply and demand so that those who choose to work abroad could do so without us here worrying where to find their replacements," Sto. Tomas said.

In her speech at the 3rd National Conference of Health Education at the University of the Philippines Manila, Sto. Tomas urged medical and nursing schools to upgrade the skills competency and training of their students.

She said something the institutions should consider is specialized training for nurses, similar to the medical curriculum of doctors, to avoid shortages in hospitals, particularly emergency rooms.

Records of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that 16,472 nurses, midwives, medical technicians, doctors, dentists and pharmacists left the country this year alone.

This was higher than the total number of health workers who left between 1998 and 2001, which was 16,240. This year's numbers posted a 69.3 percent increase in departing health workers compared to the same period last year.

Sto. Tomas said the figures are expected to rise with the current huge demand for professional health workers in the United States and Europe.

M. Salak writes '30'

MANUEL "Maning" B. Salak Jr., retired editor of The Manila Times and The Times Journal, died on Wednesday, Oct. 30. He was 84.

Salak, who hailed from Tarlac, was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jose Bautista Award for Print Media from the University of Sto. Tomas Alumni Association, the Outstanding Merit Award from the Junior Chamber of Tarlac, and the Merit Award and Commendation from the Manila Times Publishing Corp.

He is survived by his wife, Violeta, and children Manolet, Victor and Lisa.

His remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be at the Himlayang Pilipino at a date and time to be announced.

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Peace reigns on All Saints' Day for most part

By TJ Burgonio, Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, winging her way home from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Mexico, expressed satisfaction over reports yesterday's observance of All Saints' Day throughout the country was generally peaceful .

Ms Macapagal had earlier assured the public they could visit their dead and relax in malls without fear of terrorist attacks.

"Among the things we should continue to fight for are unity, peace, prosperity and safety from elements of terror that have no place in our civilized society," the President said in her All Saints' Day address.

Authorities were on full alert Friday to thwart possible terrorist attacks as millions of Filipinos trooped to cemeteries to pay their respects to their dead.

Military K-9 units and police ordnance experts screened baggage at bus terminals and police confiscated sharp and pointed objects that could be used as weapons at all cemeteries, officials said.

The Marines and the military's elite strike units were deployed to augment the 16,000-strong police force in Metro Manila, where 66 private and public cemeteries were deemed possible targets, the Agence France Presse reported.

The heightened alert came after bomb attacks blamed on terrorists killed 23 people in the southern Philippines and in Manila this month.

Authorities said "high-value" terrorist targets over the long weekend holiday could be cemeteries, bus terminals, malls and air and sea ports.

Cemetery tour

National police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. toured crowded cemeteries to check on security precautions.

"So far, we have not received any reports of incidents. I hope it will stay that way," Ebdane said.

He attributed the peaceful situation to the tight security measures adopted by policemen and Marines, as well as the cooperation of the public with the security measures adopted.

"I think everybody toed the line. Everybody was patient enough to bear with the situation. It's a good indicator we are doing fine," he said.

Ebdane said the alert status will remain in effect until Sunday when people begin their trek back from the provinces to Metro Manila.

Despite threats of terrorist attacks, however, thousands of people still flocked to the cemeteries to remember their dead.

Visitors began trooping to cemeteries as early as Thursday afternoon, setting up tents over the tombs of their loved ones, and generally spending the time like they were on a picnic.

Policemen in uniform and civilian clothes were all over the cemeteries, subjecting the people to routine inspection.

But still, a number of people refused to heed the warnings not to bring deadly weapons and alcoholic drinks to the cemeteries.

Rico Yan

Information desks located at the entrance to cemeteries began to look like weapons and liquor stores with hundreds of confiscated contraband on display.

At the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City, the tomb of the late actor Rico Yan was deluged by his fans, mostly teenagers.

Jennilyn Belen, 16, and her friend Janille Gonzales, 17, were at Yan's resting place as early as Thursday night.

"We loved him so much, he was such a good person. We intend to visit his tomb every year," Belen told the INQUIRER.

But for the most part, unlike in the past, the All Saints' Day observance in Metro Manila was more sombre.

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza ordered that radios, stereos and similar electronics be confiscated.

City administration officer Josephine Reyes said that apart from the 394 knives and sharp objects confiscated at the North Cemetery as of noon yesterday, authorities also seized 13 stereos, more than 50 guitars and 13 kites.

Even kites

"We confiscated the kites because we did not want children playing around with them and getting hurt," Reyes said.

The authorities also confiscated playing cards and alcohol.

"The mineral bottles you see there contain gin instead of water. They thought they could get away with it," Reyes told a reporter.

There were no reported untoward incidents except for a bomb scare at the Manila South Cemetery on Wednesday night that turned out to be false.

Thousands of families trooped to the South Cemetery yesterday, which had a festive atmosphere.

Bunting

Blue and white bunting was hung and numerous stalls sold food and drink to the visitors. Various items were also peddled, from toys to baby chicks dyed blue and pink.

A few enterprising souls even set up food stalls in front of their mausoleums. Roads leading to the South Cemetery were also lined with vendors.

"Security is tight, but people seem to be okay with it. They're willing to be subjected to the checks," said Edilberto de la Cruz, Manila South Cemetery assistant administrator.

Hundreds of police officers, 40 Marines and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled the cemetery. A fire truck, an ambulance and first aid stations were also on standby.

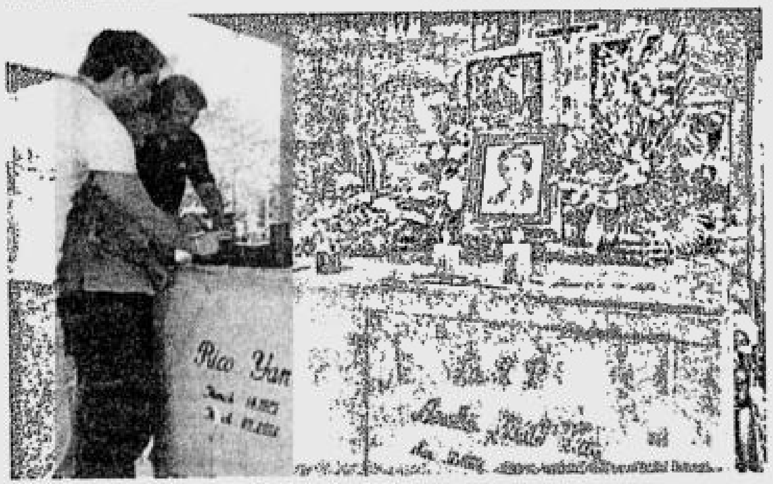
The Northern Police District's Tactical Operations Center, which monitored the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) area's cemeteries, attributed the peaceful situation to tight security.

An additional 90 policemen from the National Capital Region Police Office were deployed in the 21 public and private cemeteries in Camanava.

Members of the anti-bomb squad unit with bomb-sniffing dogs were also visible to secure the cemeteries.

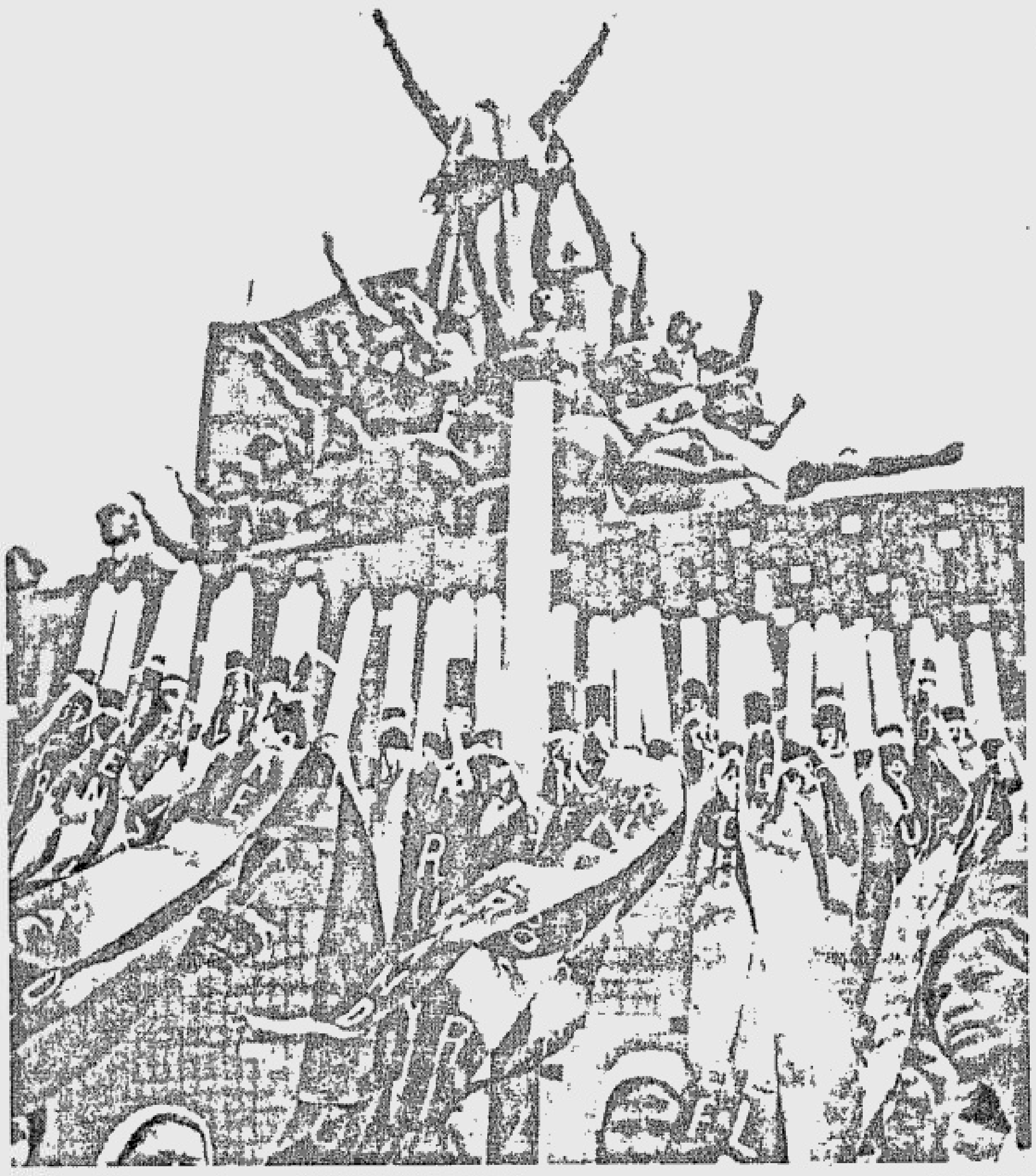
"This is quite unusual but a very welcome development since during past years, police stations in the Camanava area had 'historical high records' of crimes during this season," a ranking police officer said. *With Nelson F. Flores, Tina Santos and an AFP report*

PEACEFUL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE DESPITE TERROR THREATS

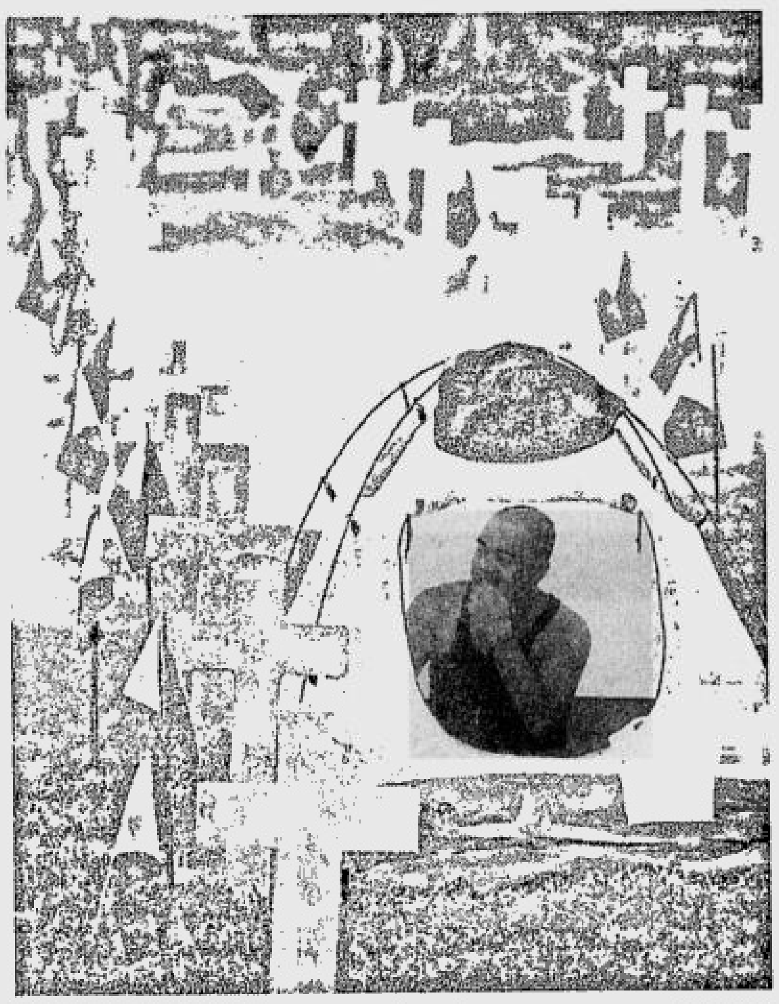


AT RICO Yan's grave, his family remembers. ROGER MARGALLO

NIGHTFALL makes for cooler contemplation. ERIK ARAZAS



KITH and kin remember martial law's 'disappeared.' JOAN BONDOC



CAMPING out at Libingan ng mga Bayani. ERIK ARAZAS

NO vehicle is spared from bomb checks. ERIK ARAZAS

7 years later, family of hanged OFW has hope

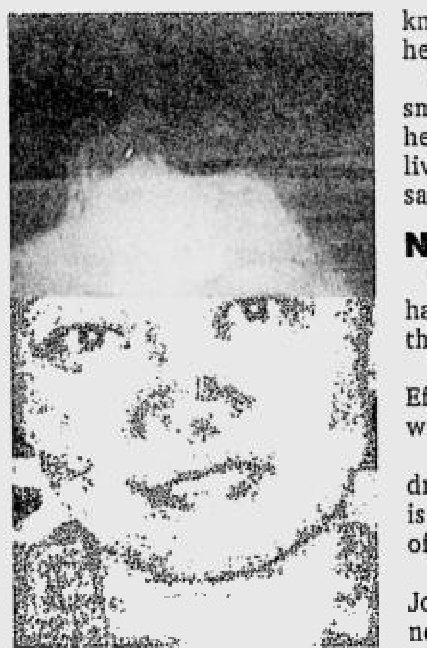
By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN PABLO CITY—For All Saints' Day, the family members of deceased overseas worker Flor Contemplacion brought fresh flowers and food to the cemetery. They offered prayers for her and reminisced about their happy days together.

Russel Contemplacion-Alemares, 25, Contemplacion's only daughter, believes her mother has been guiding the entire family since the latter was executed by hanging in Singapore on March 17, 1995 in connection with the killing of a fellow Filipina domestic helper and her ward.

Alemares, who was 18 when Contemplacion was executed, said All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are very significant days for the family.

"The entire family goes to the cemetery as early as Oct. 31 and we stay there until Nov. 2 or 3, depending on the weather," Alemares said.



CONTEMPLACION

Sandrex, 29, the eldest in Contemplacion's brood of four, said he visits his mother's grave throughout the year to see to it that it is kept clean. It is his way of letting his mother know he really cared for her, he said.

"I could imagine my mother smiling and pleased to see us, her children, doing good in our lives and remaining intact," he said.

New house

The Contemplacion family has moved to a compound near their old home.

Contemplacion's husband, Efren, has remarried. His new wife now works in Canada.

Russel, who has three children, has finished college and is now working for a member of Congress.

Sandrex and twins Joel and John, 23, drive passenger jeepneys and tricycles to earn a living.

Russel said her mother's death challenged the family to go on with their lives. She said their loss made them more determined to fulfill their mother's "desire for us to finish school."

"Although I was married I made it a point to go to school and finish my studies," she told the INQUIRER, pointing out that her mother had made a sacrifice and worked abroad so they could finish their education.

Russel recalled that during her mother's wake, a good number of concerned individuals and civic groups had pledged to support the family.

"But the pledges only lasted for six months. After that, support was cut off," Russel said.

Contemplacion's execution stirred national indignation because of the questionable circumstances surrounding her incarceration and subsequent death by hanging in Singapore.

"Seven years after Mama's death, her case remains unresolved . . . I hope our new government will make sure that those working abroad will be given enough protection and security so that what happened to my mother will not happen to others," Russel said.

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Forgive poor countries their debts, Filipino bishops ask rich nations

By Armand N. Nocum

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has joined the call for First World countries to do more to help Third World nations that are indebted to them.

In an interview, Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP executive secretary, said rich countries should even go to the extent of writing off the debts of the poor countries that are hard-pressed to pay them.

Coronel said this was the message Pope John Paul II has been trying to impart in his recent speeches and decrees.

"If the poor countries are burdened by their debts to First World countries, the Pope is asking the rich countries to effect an elimination or repudiation of the debt," he said in an interview.

If this was not possible, Coronel said, the rich countries could at least do a "substantial reduction of the debt."

Coronel said the call was in line with a resolution passed during the recently concluded Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Mexico in which Apec member-countries, including the Philippines, committed themselves to using trade to reduce poverty.

The 21 countries in APEC have been working since 1989 to establish free and open trade in the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to do this through entrepreneurship and effective policies.

Apec hopes to have free trade among its developed members by 2010 and its developing members by 2020.

On the other side of the coin, Coronel said, the poor countries must seriously fight graft and corruption in their respective territories.

"Sometimes, the people in the Third World countries are victims of inefficiency, the wastage of resources," he said.

There should be true transparency and accountability in government to ensure that the meager resources of poorer countries are used properly, he added.

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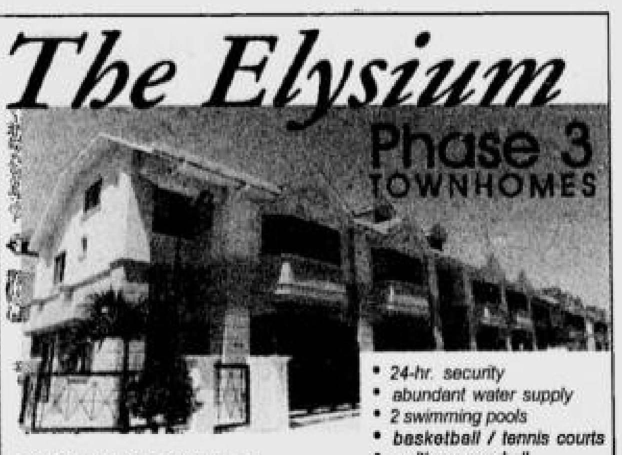

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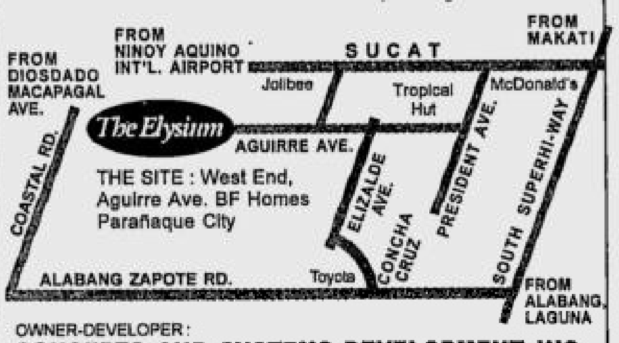

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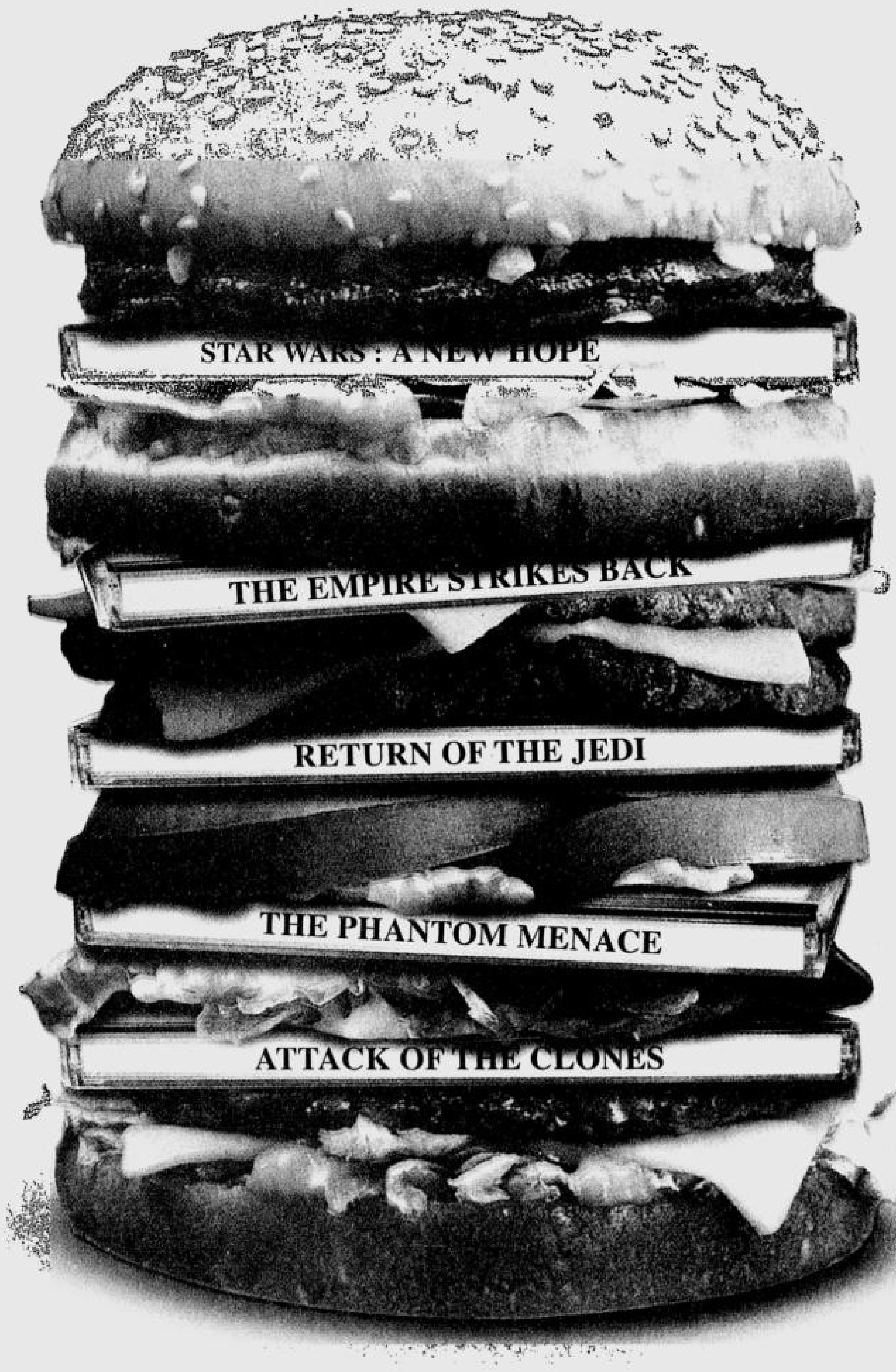

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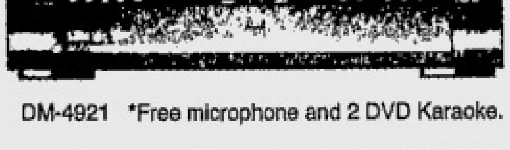

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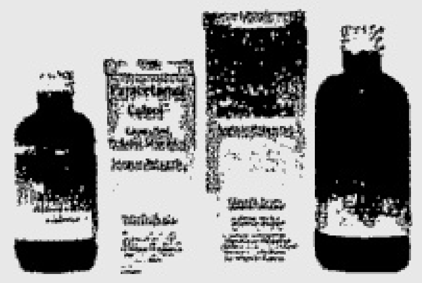

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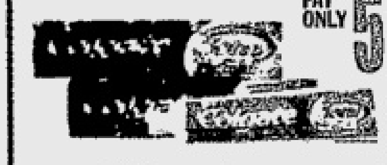

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Bacolod's house of (restless) spirits

From page A1

wife Florinda, also 76, was lying on the floor in her bedroom, still holding a medicine box.

Their son, Benrico, 42, and his three children—Mark Anthony, 13, Guillermo Benrico Jr., 11, and John Michael, 9—were soaked in their own blood inside their bedroom, stripped of their clothes, and hacked and hammered to death.

The body of maid Dolores Otagis, 20, was found in the dirty kitchen, while that of Ritchel Gonzales, 19, was discovered in the maid's room. Both suffered hack wounds.

Empty house

The house was empty after the killings. Not one of the surviving Rivillas wanted to live in the house. Also, many of the family members had already relocated to Manila.

But Carlos said the feeling that the spirits of his slain relatives had not yet left the house stopped him from retrieving all his things there.

"It's still so hard to come here. My sister is coping, but it's quite hard for her, of course," he said.

His sister Carla had lived with their slain grandparents, but escaped death because she was attending a retreat that night. She is now based in Manila.

The once-elegant house has run down, prompting the family to have the house rented out in the middle of last year.

Fr. Pius Pareja, superior general of the Marian Missionaries of the Holy Cross, said the Rivilla heirs leased the house to them at P1 a year for 25 years, with an option to renew for another 25 years.

The family initially tried to sell the house, but no one wanted to buy it because of the massacre, he said.

The Marian priests and seminarians have not completely moved in, however, because the house is undergoing renovation work, which will be completed in March next year. Two to four seminarians sometimes sleep in the house.

"I think the Marian priests will eventually bring peace into the home. I think my grandparents would have wanted it that way," Carlos said.

Restless spirits

But the spirits of the house have remained restless.

Gerry Depaclayan, 43, who has been the house caretaker since August, has had some eerie experiences in the house, but his deep faith in God has kept him from being afraid.

There were times, he said, the lights would suddenly turn on or off while water would start dripping from the faucets.

"Some days, the doors suddenly open or slam shut," he added.

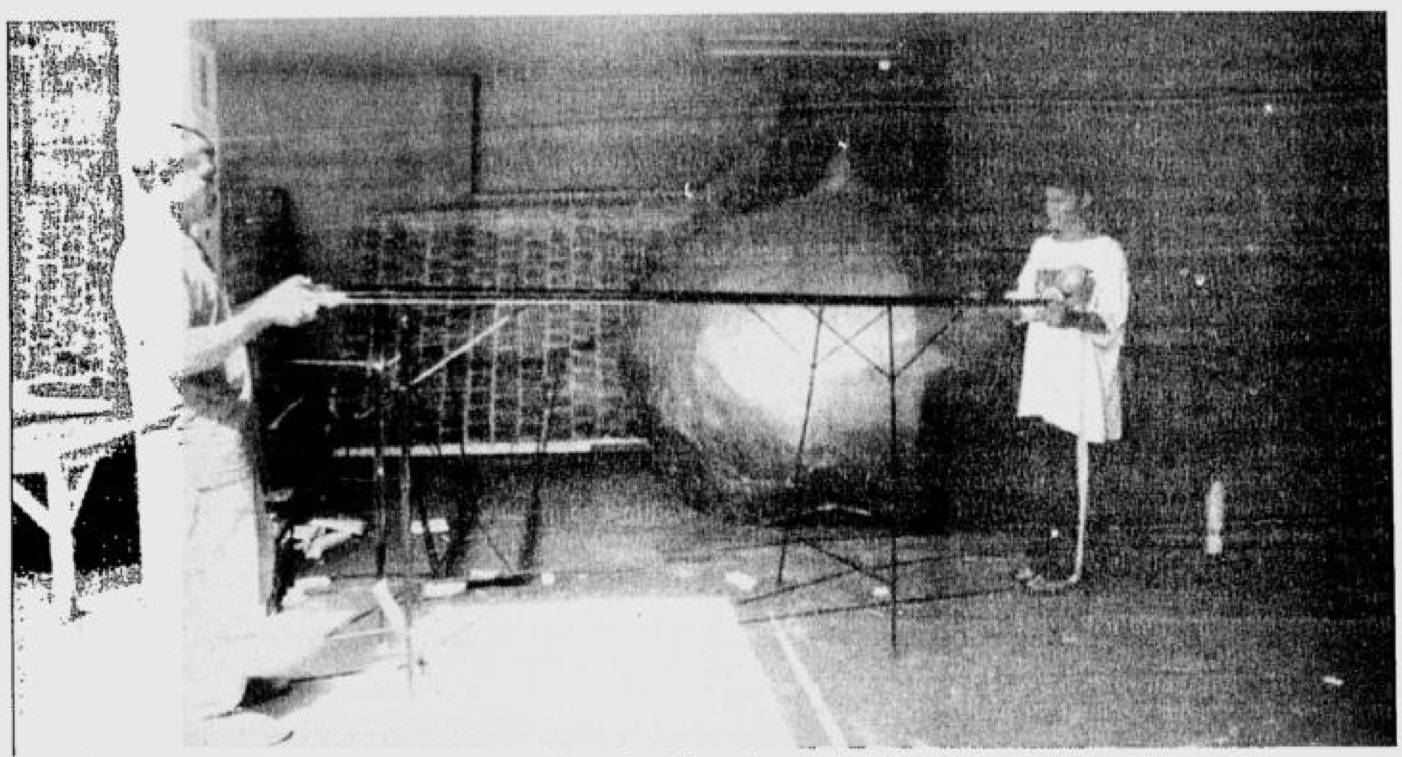
He said drops of water would drip from the electric fan, which was used by Florinda to dry her hair before she was killed.

Depaclayan, who sleeps in the room where Benrico and his sons were killed, said that at night, he could feel his bed being shaken. "I tell whoever it is not to bother me because I need to sleep, that I am the person watching their house, and then (the shaking) stops," he said.

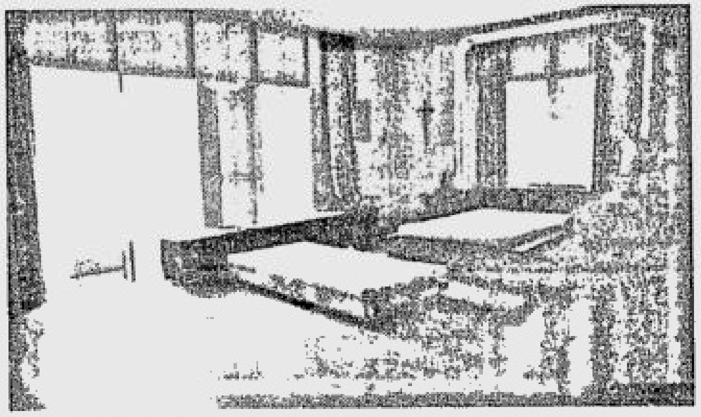
Sounds of plates, pans and pots being used can be heard at dawn, he said. The slain helpers were preparing breakfast for the Rivillas when they were killed.

Scents of lotion and soap, apparently from people taking a bath, could be smelled sometimes in the morning.

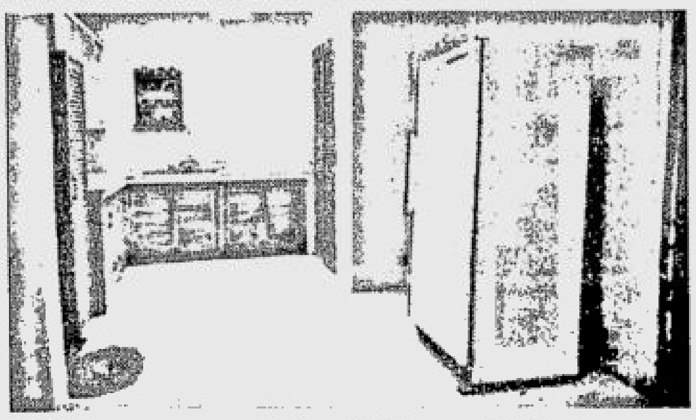
"Sometimes, I see shadows of people walking around the house. On weekends, there are sounds of muffled voices of people talking, especially from 11 p.m. to midnight," said Depaclayan.



CARETAKER Gerry Depaclayan and his 16-year-old son Gerald watch over the Rivilla house. PHOTOS BY ANDY ALVAREZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU



THE MASTER bedroom, now bare, is where Florence Rivilla was killed.



THE KITCHEN where Carlos Rivilla Jr. was killed as he was getting a glass of water.

"I was told that perhaps the strange occurrences usually occur on Saturday nights because the eight people who died were killed on a weekend," he added.

Good spirits

When things get really eerie, he said, he prays to God for protection. But Depaclayan noted that the ghosts in the house were good because they did not harm those who stayed there.

Pareja said they no longer close the door leading to the lanai anymore. They used to before, but usually found it open again in the morning.

"I was told Florinda Rivilla liked to sit in the lanai in the morning to look at her garden," he said.

There have been a few manifestations of ghosts in the house, he said, "but whoever are in the house are not malignant."

Killer unvisited

But unlike Depaclayan and Pareja, Bemon Gallo, 24, has not had any ghostly encounters with the people he killed.

He said it was not true that he choked on All Souls' Day last year because the ghosts of the Rivillas had come to haunt him. He said he had difficulty speaking because of fatigue.

Gallo, the houseboy of the Rivillas, had owned up to the crimes and was sentenced to 252 years in prison for the murder of five adults, the frustrated murder of the family driver, and theft.

He admitted in court that he killed his victims in a fit of rage after an altercation with Benrico. But the Rivilla family wants the death penalty for him for the murder of the three children.

The trial for the murder of the three young Rivillas is still ongoing before Judge Anastacio Rufon of the Regional Trial Court of Bacolod.

Other suspects?

The family still finds it difficult to believe that Gallo was alone when he killed all eight victims.

Carlos Benedict recalled that Gallo had denied smashing Benrico's knees. "So there must have been someone else with him," he said.

It is important to determine whether Gallo was alone or had companions during the killings, he said, in order to let the souls of his loved ones rest in peace.

He said two or three other suspects were being eyed, and the prosecution hoped to pin them down through the witnesses about to be presented.

"I cannot judge at this point how many actually we have . . . We don't know yet why they are involved but we are trying to strengthen the case and we hope to pin somebody down eventually." Carlos Benedict is overseeing the prosecution of the case for the family.

"We will have more witnesses to present—people that you don't expect—and that can lead to something else," he added.

But Gallo refused to say if he had companions in carrying out the carnage.

"(The case) is still being (tried) . . . that (the allegation that he had companions when he killed the Rivillas) has not been proven . . . you will know when I start to speak . . . I have not talked yet," he said.

But Gallo said he still remembers what happened in the Rivilla house that night. When asked how he feels about it, he shrugged and said: "*Daw waay man, OK man gihapon* (Nothing. I'm still OK)."

Basilan folk live with dead

From page A1

and tombs lie side by side.

Fred Tuble, 53, a public school teacher, said residents found the practice more convenient.

"We just bring the priests to our house to bless our departed loved ones," said Tuble, pointing to the graves of his wife and his youngest son.

Because of this practice, he added, it has become important for Basileños to own a piece of land.

"It's not only the place where we build our homes. We also plant some crops and at the same time use it as a resting place for our loved ones," he said.

Some prominent families also do not bother to bring their dead to public cemeteries.

The late mayor Leroy Brown and his son, Tom, are buried near their house in Lanote.

It is only in Basilan where the practice is widespread, said Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad.

"It is always unique when All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day come," Jumoad said.

He said the Catholic Church has been discouraging residents from continuing the unusual tradition, but to no apparent effect.

"We don't approve of the practice. We usually discourage them by telling them we will not celebrate the Eucharist if they will bury their dead in their own backyard," he said.

Even health officials have issued warnings about possible diseases, but again to no avail.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin said there could only be one reason people are unfazed by the warnings.

"Because of their attachment to the dead loved ones, they prefer to bury them in their own yard," Salapuddin said.

Just snub 'trapos,' voters told

From page A1

"Don't make them the godparents of your children. Don't be overly excited or nervous and eager to please when you cross paths with them."

Of course, Pacheco said, the public still needed to dialogue with government officials on public issues and to hear them out, especially through the media.

"But at social occasions, just be polite and civil," he said. "Don't initiate conversations and end up getting them as (sponsors or godparents). This way, we voters can let them know how we feel about their performance."

The KPK, which aspires to be "an alternative force" in time for the 2004 elections, just received a virtual mandate from Heaven in the form of a rare endorsement from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The influential cardinal has instructed the Council of the Laity of Manila to help the KPK spread its gospel—the redemption of the Philippines' "debased political system" starting with the reeducation of voters.

The party was launched in August by a group calling on the electorate to finally mature after decades of putting persons of dubious morality and credentials in public office.

Its founders—who maintain that they themselves will not seek public positions come 2004—include Pacheco of the Gunless Society Movement, veteran trial lawyer Mario Ongkiko, and a number of Catholic lay leaders.

The KPK calls for the application of Christian teachings as the ethical and moral yardstick for government officials.

Pacheco said that "if we can build a solid moral base for our voters, we need not worry about the next '*trapo*' or merely popular personality who will come along and ask for our votes."

Not saints

Pacheco said the KPK wrote the cardinal on Sept. 26 to inform him of the party's objectives and the people behind it.

"We are not a party of saints but of people who simply want change," he said, adding:

"Right now our priority is not really the selection of candidates for 2004 but raising the quality of the voters. If we start off by looking for so-called 'winnable' candidates, then we will fall into the same pattern, the same trap, that has marked Philippine elections."

While the KPK's primer is replete with biblical platitudes, its more specific objectives include the abolition of the death penalty, pork barrel system and state-sanctioned gambling, stricter gun control, and an end to the practice of politicians doubling as media or show biz personalities.

Pacheco said the KPK was technically not yet a party pending its registration with the Commission on Elections.

It is now setting up the provincial and municipal chapters required to be recognized as a full-fledged party.

Endorsement

In his Oct. 27 letter to Council of the Laity of Manila president Ricardo Ledesma, Sin wrote: "I am endorsing (the KPK) to your office. Kindly help them disseminate their message to our lay organizations and movements in the Archdiocese.

"(The KPK) is a group of concerned Catholic laity who want to contribute to social transformation by raising the political awareness and maturity of our people.

"I have always believed that it is about time our lay faithful (became) more actively involved in sociopolitical affairs."

Expect a song and dance in talks on absentee voting bill

From page A1

ty-list representatives, and in referenda and plebiscites on national issues. The votes can be cast in person or by mail. The voting rights may be enjoyed starting with the 2004 elections.

The House bill, on the other hand, disqualifies Filipino immigrants from voting. The positions that can be voted on are those of president and vice president and in referenda and plebiscites on national issues. The votes have to be cast personally. The voting rights are good only for the 2004 elections.

The differences are deceiving. While they appear substantive, the real bone of contention between the two chambers is the list of candidates that absentee voters can vote on. It is an issue that directly affects the political ambitions of senators and congressmen.

The congressmen have to stand pat on the exclusion of senators from the list as a matter of political necessity. On the other hand, the senators will insist (at least in public) on the inclusion of their position in the roster to show their willingness to be judged in the polls by expatriate Filipinos.

But, as will be pointed out later, it should not come as a surprise if the senators eventually give in to the congressmen on this issue for economic and political reasons.

The rest of the points of disagreements are merely "icing on the cake" or cosmetics to give a semblance of authenticity to the divergence of opinion on the proposed law.

Future plans

It is apparent from the way the senators conducted the public hearings abroad on the bill that presidential and vice presidential ambitions played a key role in the Senate's decision to be generous in the grant of voting rights to overseas Filipinos.

The visiting senators, with some congressmen in tow, played to the gallery of Filipinos who have been fighting for years for the right to participate in the country's elections.

The fawning is understandable, nay expected. The 7 million or so Filipino overseas contract workers and immigrants, including their families living in the Philippines who depend on them for financial support, constitute a formidable voting bloc that can make or unmake presidential or vice presidential dreams. The brownie points can be cashed in 2004.

If the Senate gets its way on absentee voting, the "presidentiables" and "vice presidentiables" in the Senate can claim the accomplishment as their "gift" to the overseas Filipinos that should be reciprocated with electoral support. If the consolidated bill comes out differently, the senators can point to the congressmen as the villains and declare that the watered-down version is the best that they could get. Either way it goes, the senators will come out sweet smelling.

Extra costs

The congressmen were not as generous as their counterpart in the Upper House because, for one, there are no credible presidential or vice presidential timbers among their ranks who have to curry the favor of the expatriate constituency.

By limiting to the President and Vice President the candidates that absentee voters can vote on, the congressmen showed their political acumen. They set their sights ahead of the political horizon. The senatorial aspirants among them know that giving expatriate Filipinos the right to vote them to the Senate is fraught with serious financial and political implications.

The votes of absentee voters can spell the difference between getting the last seat in the Senate's so-called "Magic 12" or waiting for another three years to win a slot in the Upper House. The only way to bag those votes is for Mr. Candidate to shell out P1 million to pay for the logistics and services of campaign leaders abroad who will make sure his name is written in the ballot.

This does not include the expenses the candidate would incur if he decides to make personal appearances in some, if not all, of the countries with heavy concentrations of Filipino voters.

Any senator or congressman who claims that this extra effort is not necessary to ensure victory is either a liar or a fool. Or both.

Political risk

Perhaps, the biggest disincentive to the inclusion of senators in the candidates to be voted on is the independence of mind of absentee voters. Since the traditional means that politicians use to win elections—guns, goons and gold—will not work on absentee voters, they will be able to vote intelligently. That is a prospect that politicians dread the most and would go to great lengths to prevent from happening.

So expect the congressmen to fight tooth and nail for the exclusion of senators from the list of candidates. This is critical to their political ambitions and therefore, like their pork barrel, would not give up unless they get something substantial in return. And the senators have nothing to offer.

It is doubtful if the senators would genuinely resist the congressmen's stance on this issue. They stand to benefit also from the proposal to limit the candidates to be voted on to the president and vice president.

True, the idea of including the senators in the list came from the senators themselves. They had to because they are considered national officials and they initiated the enactment of an absentee voting law. The overseas Filipinos would not look kindly on them if they exempted themselves from the list, a reaction the presidential and vice presidential wannabes among the senators would not risk getting.

Silent wish

The House version gives reelectionist senators a credible way out of the problem they have created for themselves in making their position subject to the political judgment of expatriate Filipinos.

After putting up token resistance to the congressmen's proposal, the senators can agree to it and then say with a straight face that they had no choice but give in otherwise the absentee voting law would get bogged down in the legislative mill. Give it to the politicians to put a positive spin on an otherwise bad situation.

The rest of the differences between the Senate and House bills on absentee voting are not gut issues that lawmakers are expected to fight over as if their lives depended on them. Whether Filipino immigrants should be allowed to vote, how they should cast their vote and when that right can be exercised would have little effect on the political plans of the lawmakers. Hence, the avenue for compromise on these issues will be very wide.

The lawmakers know that after 15 long years, the expatriate Filipinos would prefer a limited absentee voting law than nothing. The charade of the senators and congressman is a small price to pay for the opportunity, no matter how restricted, to participate in the political affairs of the native land.

Survey shows youth don't know heroes

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DESPITE the furor surrounding "Parisian Life", the Filipino youth hardly know who its painter Juan Luna was. In fact, most of the youths polled could only name up to two Filipino heroes.

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, chair of the House committee on basic education, said a recent survey showed that Filipino youth had a "very shallow appreciation" of the country's history and cultural heritage.

He said the survey conducted by NFO-Trends for the Ateneo de Manila University indicated a startling lack of national pride among the young.

For instance, he said, only 37 percent of the young respondents were able to sing the National Anthem and only 28 percent could recite the "Panatang Makabayan" (Pledge of Allegiance).

"Where is our sense of national pride?" Reyes lamented. "The youth would rather go to the malls than to museums."

He said NFO-Trends, a private polling firm commissioned to conduct the 2001 youth study, polled 1,420 Filipinos aged seven to 21 this year.

When asked to name Filipino heroes, he said the respondents could only name up to two of them.

Rizal #1

Some 93 percent easily mentioned Jose Rizal, 63 percent identified Andres Bonifacio, 38 percent knew Apolinario Mabini and 25 percent remembered Emilio Aguinaldo.

"They didn't know Juan Luna," Reyes said.

Luna was a painter who gained fame at the turn of the 19th century. His most famous pieces include "The Death of Cleopatra" and the "Spoliarium", which won the gold medal in the Madrid Exhibition of 1884.

His "Parisian Life", painted in Paris in 1892, is at the center of controversy after it was taken out of the country, auctioned off in Hong Kong and bought by the Government Service Insurance System for a P46 million, way above the P14 million floor price set by Christie's.

Reyes, an ex-officio member of the National Museum board of trustees, blamed the low appreciation of history by the youth to the deficiency in teaching.

"It starts with the teaching of history. You have to know your heroes and the history of your country to be able to appreciate your heritage," he said.

Reyes said the problem lay not just with the school curriculum but with the history books, some of which contained wrong information, and with the teaching.

National pride

"I'm all for building national pride and protecting our heritage but we have to start in our schools, not by buying so-called artifacts," he said.

Reyes said the controversy over "Parisian Life" also brought to the fore "our many shortcomings" in the implementation of the law protecting cultural treasures.

Reyes was referring to Presidential Decree 374 or the Cultural Preservation and Protection Act of 1974, which was issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos 28 years ago.

Reyes said "we have not accomplished much since PD 374 was enacted."

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Pagcor turns moist eye on text games

WHAT do "Game Ka Na Ba?" "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," "The Weakest Link," "PBA Hapee Endings" and "imGame" have in common?

All television shows are engaged in a new form of gambling that makes use of the short messaging system (SMS), or text messaging, according to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), which wants Congress to regulate the gaming system.

A study submitted by Pagcor to the House committee on games and amusements said that with 12 million mobile phone users as a potential market for text gaming, this could be a "possible source of revenue for government."

The study noted that to qualify as a contestant, viewers have to send a text to communicate with the game's organizers or use a landline to register and answer trivia questions. The average cost is P2.50 per text message or P10 per minute for landline users.

It said that while Pagcor could prohibit text gaming, this was "not a viable option" because "not only would the government be deprived of a potential source of income but it would also drive this popular activity underground."

And enforcement of a ban on text gaming would mean allocating manpower and resources, the study added. *Christine O. Avendano*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 2, 2002
All Souls Day

1st Reading: Is 25:6-9
2nd Reading: Rom 6:3-9
Gospel: Mt 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

The King will say to those on his right: 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.'

Then the good people will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you: whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those on his left: 'Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

They, too, will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?' The King will answer them: 'Truly, I say to you: whatever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life."

Commentary

You already know the parable of the Last Judgment. But there is a detail that may have escaped our attention. In this parable there is only one judge: the Son of Man. He is the only one responsible for judging, saving and condemning. He is the only one who knows enough the heart of each person and discerns one's own authentic motives. We should bear this in mind because we love to sit daily at the judge's chair! We feel capable to determine who is guilty or not. Thus, we kick God out of his place. Ours is not to judge our brothers and sisters but to love them.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—When accused entitled to bail as a matter of right/When bail is granted as a matter of discretion—The rule is that all persons in custody shall, before conviction, be entitled to bail as a matter of right. However, when the accused is charged with a capital offense, or an offense punishable by reclusion perpetua, and the evidence of guilt is strong, the grant of bail becomes a matter of discretion. Where the admission to bail of an accused is discretionary, it is mandatory for the trial court to conduct a hearing to afford both the prosecution and the defense a reasonable opportunity to present evidence to establish, in the case of the prosecution, that evidence of the guilt of the accused is strong, and in the case of the defense, that such evidence of guilt is not strong. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Marallag v. Purugganan, A. M. No. 00-1529-RTJ, April 9, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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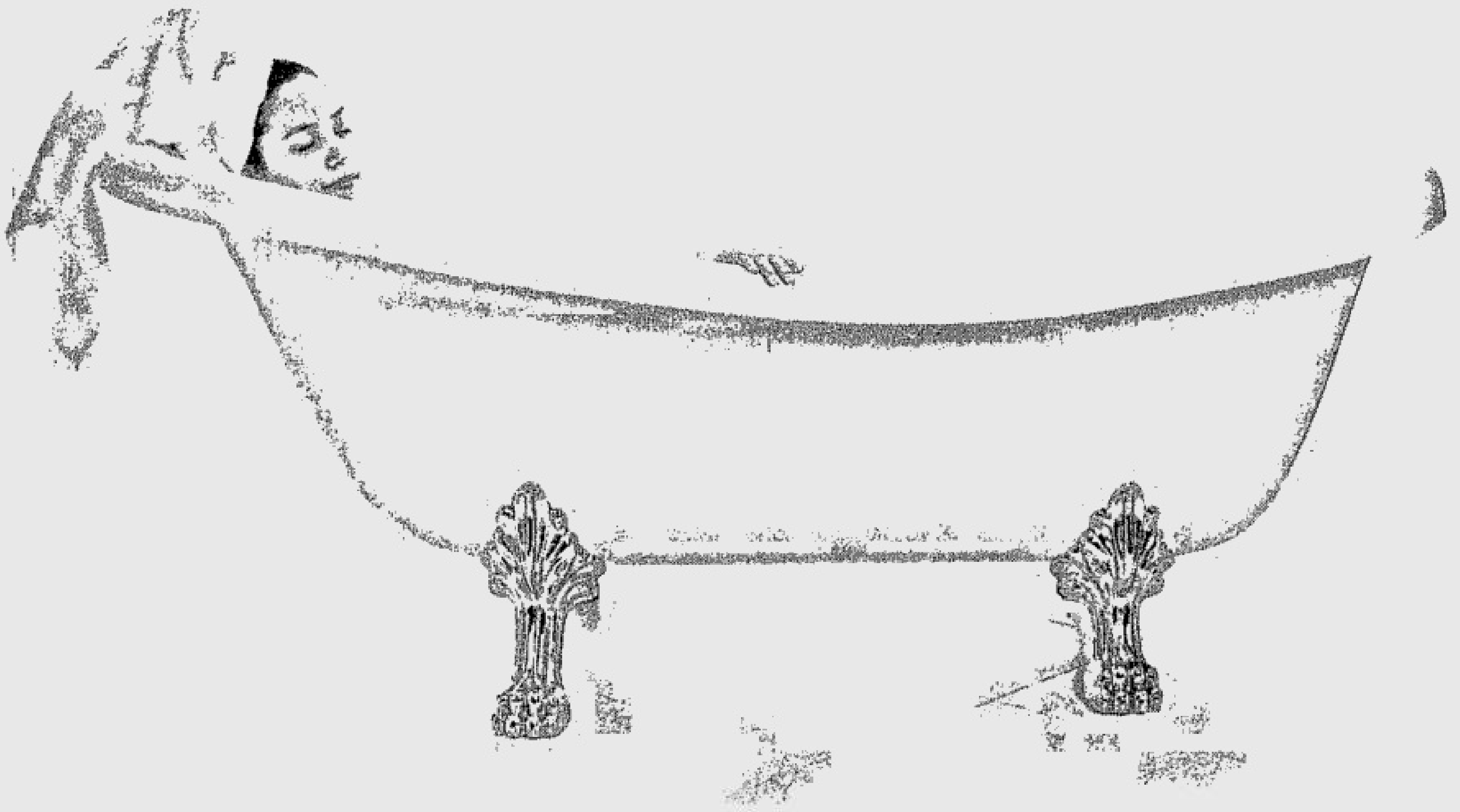

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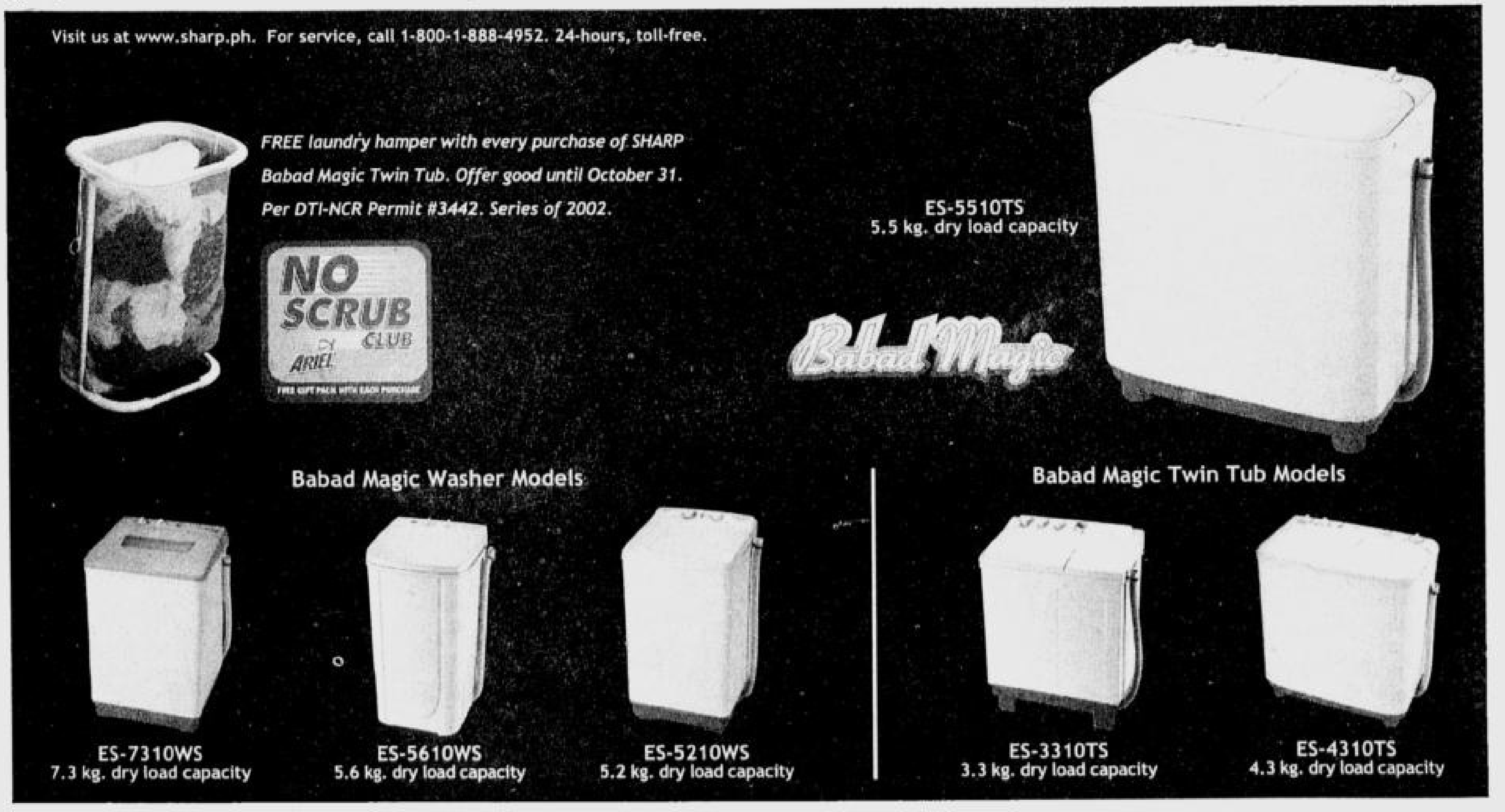
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Debilitating imports

EDITORIAL

THE SENATE should heed the call of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel for an investigation of the smuggling of vegetables into the country. But the inquiry should be broadened to include other problems of the vegetable industry, including the strong competition that it is facing from imported vegetables from Taiwan, China and Australia.

Imported vegetables have been flooding the market in the past two years. From only 10,000 kilos in 1999, the volume of imported fresh vegetables rose to 1.1 million kg in 2000 and doubled to 2 million kg last year. These official figures do not include smuggled vegetables that find their way to local markets.

Importers of vegetables like Rustan's say they are of premium quality but cost less than the local produce. They also said that they have a "moral obligation" to provide consumers a wide range of choices. In some instances, as in the case of the Australian imports, the vegetables are better packaged, although Philippine producers say local vegetables actually taste better and contain more nutrients.

There is nothing in the law that prohibits the importation of vegetables. Globalization has thrown the Philippine market wide open to imported produce. The entry of cheap vegetables was one of the results of the government's import liberalization policy and commitment to the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade.

To comply with the WTO rules removing trade barriers and gradually decreasing tariffs, the government reduced tariff on agricultural products to an average of 12 percent this year. This will be further reduced to 9 percent by 2004. By 2005 there will be zero tariff.

Aside from the legal importations, Filipino vegetable farmers also have to contend with technical smuggling of vegetables from China and Taiwan, and to some extent, Australia.

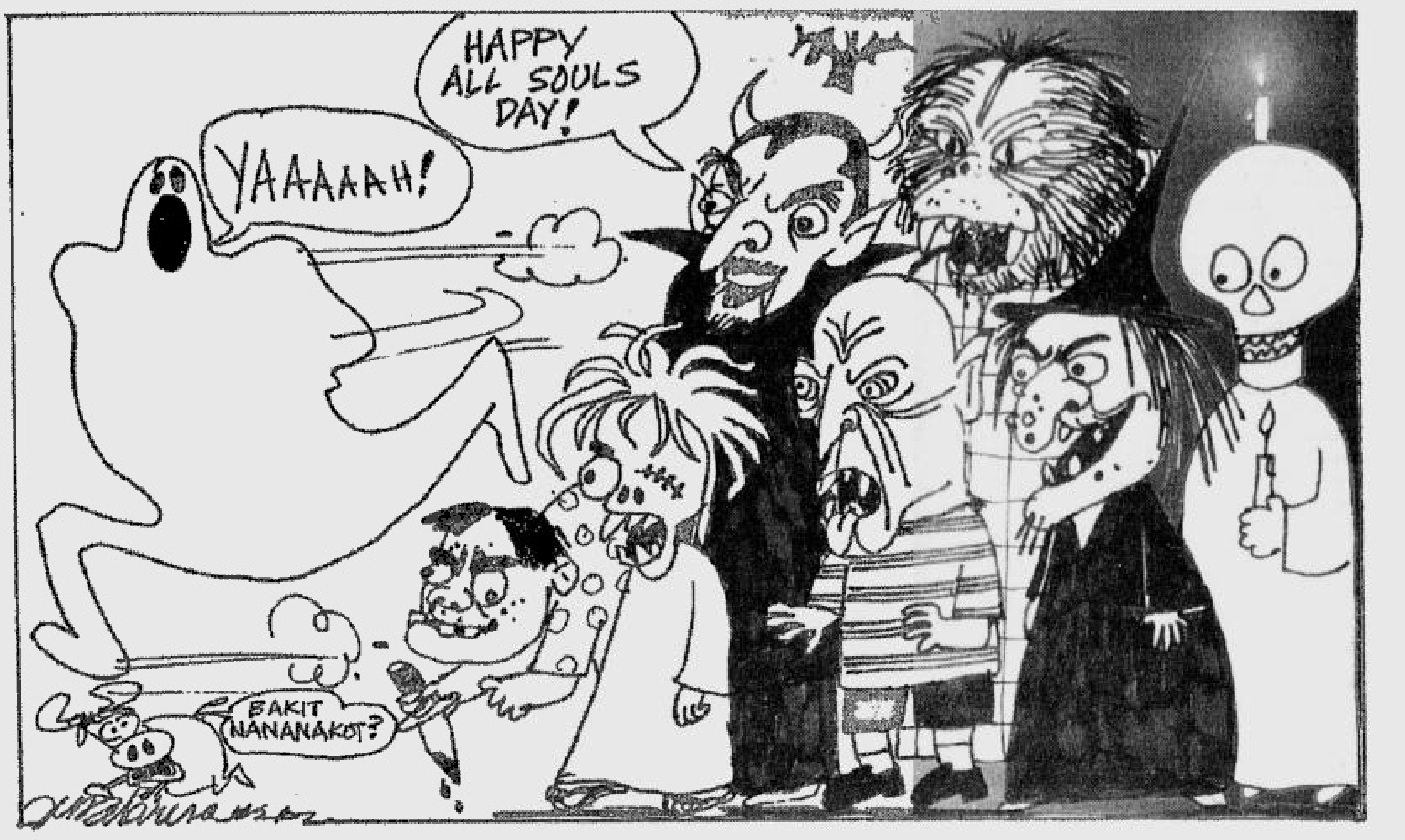
Mayor Nestor Fongwan of La Trinidad, Benguet, the town that is the largest producer of the so-called "Baguio vegetables," said that the Department of Agriculture's figures on the importation and smuggling of vegetables into the country are just a third of the actual volume that finds its way to local markets. The agriculture department placed total vegetable imports at about 300,000 kg while a La Trinidad task force said the volume of smuggled vegetables from July to Oct. 15 had reached nearly 900,000 kg.

Smuggling is just one of the things that the Senate committee on agriculture will have to look into. The committee may also have to inquire into:

- The need to review government policy on the importation of agricultural produce, particularly vegetables. While under the law and international agreements it is not possible to ban importation, some way should be found to regulate the entry of imported vegetables.
- The possibility of asking for special treatment for developing countries like the Philippines to defer the full implementation of GATT by 2005. In the meantime, President Macapagal-Arroyo may be asked to revise the tariff cuts affecting the vegetable industry.
- The collapse of the Cagayan Valley-Central Luzon-Cordillera Fruits and Vegetable Marketing Cooperative (Cacencor). Cacencor was a marketing conduit scheme formed by 72,000 farmers and 26 trading unions. It was able to land P15 billion worth of deals in five years, but somehow the supply mechanism broke down and hotels and other businesses started to import vegetables.
- The possibility that some of the imported or smuggled vegetables may be genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

In addition to assistance from the executive and legislative branches of the government, the local vegetable industry will have to help itself to make its produce more competitive. It will have to improve its production, storage, distribution and marketing systems and facilities. It will have to make arrangements for the transfer of modern agricultural technology. It will have to look for good sources of credit. And it will have to exert pressure on congressmen and senators to allocate some of their pork barrel for farm-to-market roads.

The vegetable industry crisis is affecting 250,000 farmers or about 1.25 million people in Benguet and Mountain Province alone. The smuggling and unrestricted importation of foreign produce are threatening to kill the local vegetable industry. An inquiry has to be conducted as soon as possible, and solutions found to avert the collapse of an industry that is an important component of Philippine agriculture.


HAPPY ALL SOULS DAY!
YAAAAAH!
BAKIT NANANAKOT?

Dirty TV shows

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS much gratified by the report in this paper of the protest of McCann Erickson, the top advertising agency in this country, against the crude television shows being aired at noontime by ABS-CBN and GMA-7.

These are "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan" and "Eat Bulaga" which are watched regularly by some 3 million viewers, about one-third of them children. These two shows compete daily to flaunt their bad taste in the indecent attire and writhings of the dancers, the toilet humor of the hosts, the sexual suggestions in the dialogue, and the often supercilious treatment of guests and participants from the audience.

In one show, according to the ad agency, some female cast members gamely humiliated themselves by eating raw fish and liver as the audience howled with laughter. Another woman chewed on a piece of meat that looked like an animal's private organ. A male cast member tried to be funny by promising the men in the audience that they could eat another female cast member later.

The live audience joined in the fun, forgetting their hunger in the orgy of the moment. Everyone was having a good time, including those watching in their houses with the children who must have been wondering what the adults found so amusing. It probably never occurred to the parents that the script and situations in the shows were defiling their offspring's innocence.

McCann Erickson has threatened to pull out its ads unless the offensive shows are reformed and made respectable. This stern attitude deserves the commendation of the mature viewing public, many of whom have long since switched to other channels in disgust. Other advertisers should join in purging local television of all the immoral, stupid and otherwise tasteless shows that have enfeebled it as an important barometer of popular inclinations and attitudes.

It is noteworthy that the call for reform has been made by the ad agency itself, notwithstanding its certain loss of substantial income if its ultimatum is ignored. Their excellent demonstration of civic spirit should belie the public impression that the advertising industry is an essentially deceptive institution whose purpose is to make the commercial better than the product.

McCann Erickson has demonstrated that it is less influenced by the profit motive than the indulgent executives of ABS-CBN and GMA-7. They obviously believe that there is no need to change the motif of their shows as long as they bring in the sponsors that will make everybody happy. That is a cynical and greedy attitude that has further tainted the *bakya* crowd and the image of the local television in general.

Television is a powerful medium that can help much in educating the people and elevating their taste. We can learn much from watching Discovery and National Geographic and keep track of international events through CNN and Fox News. My daughter Candy grew up with "Sesame Street," which continues to teach thousands of other children through Big Bird and the Count. But these shows are available only on cable TV and are not the products of our own television industry.

We do have a number of talk shows where current issues are discussed intelligently and knowledgeably. Many of us appreciate the daily news reports except when pictures of gory corpses are splashed on the screen while the viewers are taking their meals. Then there are the soap operas that are at least tolerable and the quiz shows where a quizmaster once magisterially ruled that the first day of the week was Monday. But, on the whole, local television deserves the derogatory description of the medium in general as a vast wasteland.

Given its widespread presence, television can improve the thinking and attitudes of the people, especially those who have not had the privilege of a formal schooling. Television can instruct them to be more useful, right-thinking members of our deteriorating society. Instead, it is reducing its audience to simple-minded gawkers of clowns, idiots, perverts, exhibitionists and all manner of weird characters as their perfect symbol of the grand and happy life.

Government censorship is anathema in the democratic ambience although the Supreme Court does not think so. I do agree that graphic presentations have a greater capacity for evil than the other media of entertainment and so must be regulated and even restricted in proper cases. But this should be done not by the intrusive government but by the television industry itself.

The answer to the problem of dirty television shows is self-regulation, to be performed by the television executives, producers and other leaders of the ailing industry. They should be responsible enough, and courageous enough and dismissive enough of the profit motive, to care less for their private earnings and more for the public welfare.

Communicating with the dead

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE LATEST "Debate" episode was a discussion of whether communicating with the dead is possible. What more appropriate topic, after all, for Halloween, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day?

Ranged on one side were Msgr. Nico Bautista, TV personality Hans Montenegro (who is more than just a handsome face—he has a master's degree in psychology from the Santa Clara University in California) and TV director Rez Cortez, who did not believe it was possible. Facing them were psychic and paranormal expert Jaime Licauco, metaphysicist Paul Reyes of the UP Paranormal Society and actress Odette Khan.

Bible verses were quoted by both camps to bolster their respective beliefs, but it seemed that what really divided the audience was personal experience. Most of those who believed that communicating with the dead is possible had actual encounters with the departed.

My own belief is based on just such an experience, which happened almost 20 years ago. I was, perforce, attending a session with a spirit writer at the house of Jose "Pepe" Calderon. There were six of us in attendance, aside from the medium, who was ironically, a member of the science faculty of Silliman University. Pepe and his wife Betty, his brother Cicero (I'm not sure now, but I think at the time he was president of Silliman University) and Cicero's wife, also named Betty, my sister Muchi and myself. The Calderons are our second cousins, on my father's side.

As I indicated, I was a reluctant participant. The only reason I was there was that my mother, who was the one scheduled to attend, had fallen sick but threatened to leave her sickbed unless we went in her place. We really had no choice.

My mom's eagerness was due to what Cicero and Betty Calderon had related to her about their own very "successful" experience with spirit writing. They in turn had gotten involved because they had lost their youngest daughter in a tragic accident in Dumaguete during the celebration of her elementary school graduation, where she topped her class.

In an attempt to assuage their grief, some friends told them about a young faculty member who had a "gift": she had the reputation of being able to get people separated by death to communicate with each other through writing. Cicero and Betty got in touch with the young lady, and they were ecstatic when they indeed were able to communicate with their daughter.

How did they know it was their daughter, and not some other spirit who was writing through the medium? They recognized the speaking style of their daughter and, even more important, they recognized her handwriting.

This was all recounted again to us by the Calderons. And it was emphasized that we were indeed fortunate to benefit from the medium. She was in Manila to fix her travel papers in connection with a science scholarship she got from a university in the United States (West Virginia, I think).

I spoke at length with the young lady, and I could appreciate how difficult it must be for her to acknowledge this "gift" of hers, when her training and her career was in science. Nevertheless, I watched her like a hawk during the session. When calling for a particular spirit in writing, she would hold the pen firmly. And then immediately loosen her grip on it, apparently to make it easier for the spirit to guide her hand. I also noted that while she was writing, she would be constantly using her other hand to wipe her face with a handkerchief, because she was perspiring profusely. It seemed that the session took a heavy physical toll on her.

But I wasn't too impressed with the conversation with the spirits that was going on in writing. When finally our "turn" came, that is to say, my cousins asked her to call for my father, I noted that the handwriting that came out was definitely not my father's.

I didn't want to spoil the others' fun, so I did not point out the discrepancy. But I immediately lost interest, and my sister and I did not participate in the ensuing conversation, leaving our cousins to ask their questions. I was already framing in my mind what I would say to my mother when we got back home.

Then abruptly I read the words: "Now I would like to speak to my children"—and the handwriting changed. It became my father's handwriting, and my sister and I exchanged an eloquent glance.

It was not only the handwriting. I recognized the phrasing, and the choice of words as distinctly my father's. He was a writer, his command of the English language was awesome, and I would recognize his style anywhere.

It was mind-boggling. I was so happy just to know he was around that any questions, as well as my mother's instructions, flew out of my mind.

When we brought the pages home to my mother, she also instantly recognized his handwriting and immediately felt better. She scolded me for not asking questions, and expressed dissatisfaction that my dad hadn't said enough. That's my mom.

Unfortunately when the story was recounted to the rest of my family (we are six children) in the United States, the reaction was one of total disbelief (which angered my mother so much, she got sick again). And since I was younger than most, they berated me for my gullibility.

Did I mind? No. I wouldn't have believed it myself, had I not been there.

It will ever be thus. It has to happen to you before you believe. And sometimes, not even then.

A book on remembering, a testimony about miracles

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE TWIN commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day gives the nation occasion to pause and remember our departed loved ones, mainly by visiting their graves. In this time of remembering, I thought the readers deserve a break from politics. So I write today about an emotionally provocative book Erlinda Enriquez-Panlilio recently put together—precisely about remembering. Titled "From This Day Forward," the book is a collection of personal essays written by 21 prominent widows and widowers about the trauma and pain they went through with the death of their spouses and how they pulled themselves together and began living again.

* * *

The essayists include my irrepressible friend Larry Henares, whose wife, Cecilia, died in his arms in a hotel lobby in Paris, Narita Gonzalez who had always lived as NVM Gonzalez's wife during their life together, and Linda herself after the death of her Beck. Other essayists include Maribel Ongpin, Beth Day Romulo, Cesar Buenaventura, Jaime Laya, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Lorna Kapunan, Doreen Fernandez and Eric Caruncho. Karina Bolasco, herself a widow, published the book and wrote a poem that became its frontispiece.

* * *

Many of the essayists have been public figures but very private personalities, and so it was quite a scoop for Panlilio to be able to coax them to write of their draining emotional experience. She admits it was not easy for them to speak of how "they had no alternative but to pick up the shattered pieces of a life and simply move on, no matter the numbing pain and the unremitting emptiness." Linda also admits it was much tougher to get the widowers to write, they being "by nature reticent about their feelings."

* * *

To recover from their grief, the essayists turned to life's great antidotes, burying themselves in work and getting involved in causes and with other lives. For some, recovery came in the form of a new career, as in the case of Isabel Wilson who became our ambassador to Spain. Some were fortunate to have a new window on life opened; they remarried, and in several cases the new spouse was a widow or widower too. This was true of Benny Tan, Cesar Buenaventura and Victor Lim. The shared experiences of going through the death of their loved ones enriched their second relationship. A common thread running through the essays is the affirmation that life with their departed spouses had been good and their faith in the institution of marriage.

Get Panlilio's book from Anvil Publishing Inc., Tel. Nos. 671-1899 and 671-9235.

* * *

The twin commemoration is also a good occasion to confront our mortality. So I thought I'd speak about the project of a friend, business executive Eduardo C. Arroyo Jr., that sprang from recent intimations about his mortality. Last August Arroyo gathered friends and relatives at a Makati hotel for his birthday and to speak about the church and shrine he, his wife Cheding Valderrama-Arroyo and some friends were constructing in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa, to whom Pope John Paul II happens to have a personal devotion too. Arroyo's devotion sprang from a number of miracles in his life that he attributes to the "intercessory powers" of the image revered by the Poles, popularly known as "The Black Madonna."

* * *

Like the essayists in Panlilio's book, Arroyo confessed that he at first hesitated to talk about the personal incidents in his life, but recent events have made him determined to tell everyone about the Lady of Czestochowa. In April 1992 he was diagnosed by local doctors to have cancer in the lungs, and he was devastated. His aunt, Sister Herminigildis, who had been tasked by the Pope to found the Congregation of St. Joseph, popularly known as the "Pink Sisters," in Poland, had come to know and love Our Lady's image there. The nun taught her nephew to turn to the Polish patroness for help. He found out that for more than 400 years the Poles have been praying at her shrine in Jasna Gora during invasions of the Turks and the Swedes. The black icon was believed to have been painted by the evangelist Luke on the dining table of the Holy Family.

* * *

Told by his doctors that he needed an operation to remove a mass the size of a golf ball, he and his family and relatives began the novena to the Polish patroness. "I personally prayed so much in those few days than I ever did in my 38 years," he says. After the operation, the growth turned out to be just a mass of benign tissue.

In February of this year, however, Arroyo had another medical crisis. This time it was heart failure. Unable to breathe, he was rushed to the hospital, where he was told by a team of cardiologists to undergo an angiogram. They were almost sure he needed a bypass. Again, he turned to Our Lady of Czestochowa, aided by his "prayer warriors," the Pink Sisters and the Carmelites. After his angiogram, cardiologist Dr. Bingloi Diaz told him, "*Malakas ka talaga sa itaas.* The blocks are insignificant, and not even an angioplasty is needed."

* * *

Arroyo says friends who have heard these miracles and other fortuitous events in his life would tease him by asking, "Why you?" But he is convinced that Our Lady wants him to build a shrine for her and a formation center on a Tagaytay property he bought in the early 1980s. Famed architect Bobby Mañosa is doing the design. The groundbreaking will take place very soon. A group called Our Lady of Jasna Gora Foundation, chaired by Ayala Alabang parish priest Msgr. Chito Bernardo, was also organized recently to propagate devotion to Poland's patroness.

Linking culture and terrorism

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ENTERING Loyola Memorial Park at dawn, we're faced with a pair of women guards who pat us down in search, we suppose, of weapons and bomb materials. Cars are stopped at the gate for a visual inspection, trunks popped open and mirrors passed under each vehicle.

News shows the night before are filled with the extraordinary security measures undertaken to protect the public. Luggage taken on board buses, ships and planes are opened and scrutinized. Bus passengers panic when a commuter steps off the bus and leaves a bag behind, mollified only when the bag is revealed to contain nothing but clothes. Still, according to TV news reporters, the extraordinary security cordon thrown around cemeteries, ports, airports and terminals yields a relatively modest haul of knives and bladed weapons, hard drinks and gambling paraphernalia, and even toy guns that look so much like the real thing they could be used in hold-ups. Which just goes to show, I suppose, that we have more to fear from one another, and from drunken impulses and criminal intent, than from those shadowy terrorists and their violent political agenda.

But when it comes to terrorism, as experience shows us, one can't be too careful. The revelers in Bali or the stockbrokers and money traders behind their desks at the Twin Towers know only too well the consequences of believing oneself immune from the murderous plans of strangers. So maybe it doesn't seem too ridiculous to be preparing for a terrorist attack on the Feast of the Dead, terrorists seeing no irony in ushering to their deaths a populace remembering their own dead.

* * *

LESS than a decade ago, the thought of terrorism encroaching on a traditional event and even exploiting the suspension of normal watchfulness that a popular celebration encourages would have been inconceivable.

Terrorism, at least to ordinary Filipinos, was something that happened or threatened other people, especially wealthy Americans, or military and police personnel.

But in just a few years, we have learned the extent of our vulnerability. So many bombings, hijackings, kidnappings have taken place that in the last year or so, body searches at the gates of cemeteries no longer seem ludicrous or unreasonable. I guess we can say we have learned to live with terrorism when the fear and threat of it becomes part of everyday life, a feature of popular culture.

In January this year, a roundtable discussion on "Culture and Terrorism" was held in Malacañang, under the auspices of former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, presidential adviser on culture. Two considerations led to this discussion, Shahani said: "the emergence of terrorism as a dominating concern at local, national and global levels; and the need to bring together intellectuals, academics and government to analyze the important relationship between culture and terrorism as well as its implications for the future of Filipino society."

* * *

SHAHANI explains the link: "A culture of poverty, injustice, oppression and ignorance breeds and encourages terrorism. Such are the causes and beginnings of the frightening events we and the rest of the world have experienced lately. On the other hand, a culture of respect for human rights, justice, economic efficiency and spirituality can create a culture of peace and harmony.

"Our understanding of culture and the way we allow it to affect us has a major role in securing our daily lives and safeguarding our future, in addition to giving us happiness and joy. The need to understand the power and influence of culture becomes all the more important as violence escalates not only every day but in some places almost every minute. We must be aware of the self-destructive course our ingrained habits and prejudices can lead us, and, in being culturally conscious, we can collectively create a more peaceful and cooperative way of life. In addition, we need to have a clearer definition of terrorism—how to differentiate between a freedom fighter and a superior bandit?"

Edilberto de Jesus, delivering a paper on "Terrorism and Culture" while he was still president of the Far Eastern University before his appointment as education secretary, affirms that "it would be too facile to say that one man's meat is another man's poison. One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, patriot and martyr. The al-Qaida suicide plane bombs deserved to be condemned. But we have to guard against a blanket condemnation based on the wrong reasons or that unjustly implicates those equally repelled by the crime."

* * *

DE JESUS cites Muslim intellectuals and social critics, among them imprisoned Malaysian oppositionist Anwar Ibrahim, who issued scathing condemnations of the Twin Towers tragedy. While conceding America's "sins of omission" in provoking the formation of such extremist organizations as al-Qaida, Newsweek columnist Fareed Zakaria, for instance, points the finger of blame at the ruling regimes in the Arab world. "The ruling elites became spectacularly wealthy, but their societies remained trapped in attitudes and with values that left them ill-prepared to cope with the challenges of the modern world."

In the last 30 years, said Zakaria, "Saudi-funded schools have churned out tens of thousands of half-educated, fanatical Muslims who view the modern world and non-Muslims with great suspicion."

Perhaps the first step to untangling the knots between terrorist acts and popular misunderstanding of their links to Islam should be popular education on Muslim culture and history, especially of Muslim Filipinos.

The Isle of Negros (4)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

PAPA Isio's real lair was on one of the highest peaks of Kanlaon south of Mansalanao. Aside from the fact that the approach to the top was almost perpendicular, trenches had been constructed and all timber and brush had been cleared away for the bandits to have a clear line of fire. Ladders of *bejuco* (cane/liana) were let down from the trenches to the trail below. Within the fortifications were piles of stones and sharpened hardwood, double-pointed throwing spears called *planquetas*, all ready to be thrown down at an attacking force. There were also huge rocks, some requiring as many as 12 men to move, poised on the parapet and held by ropes of rattan so that the slash of a bolo would send them crashing down the mountain. There was only one trail up Mansalanao, narrow and traps called *suyac* (sharp pointed stakes underfoot) and *balatig* (spring traps in the brush). Outposts were situated down the mountain so that it was impossible to surprise the *babaylanes*.

(After an arduous climb up the mountain, Lieutenant White and his Filipino contingent meet the bandits and "vanquish" them. At the summit they find a regular village.)

Papa Isio's "mansion" was supplied with running water, piped in with bamboo tubes from a spring farther up the plateau. The houses were full of loot from the haciendas: mirrors, women's dresses, china dishes, pots and pans, and farming implements. There were pigs and vegetable gardens. Chickens, fresh ears of corn, root tubers like *camote* and *ube*. There were tobacco leaves found hanging under the eaves of the Pope's house and Pangassi rice wine in big earthen jars.

From the summit, Isabela and the little towns of Binalbagan Valley, Guimaras Island and much of Panay were visible. It was rumored that the Pope himself had been wounded and two of his leaders, Aguacil-cito and Felipe Dacu, were dead. The old scoundrel was finally captured and sent to Bilibid where he didn't suddenly escape from a cell in maximum security. (Actually the Constabulary had not captured him but had worked out terms of surrender.) White and his men were given a *baile* to celebrate the victory and afterwards there were no more haciendas burned by the *babaylanes* in the valley of Binalbagan.

White says that the crisis of law and order in the South was brought about by injustice. If a peasant killed a peasant, there was no problem. The murderer was so poor "there was none to do him reverence and the scales of justice were easily and quickly adjusted." But if an *ilustrado* or *distinguido* was the principal suspect, the situation became complex: "false oaths and affidavits, disappearing witnesses, false alibis and many other chicaneries (were) thrown against the measured weights of justice." If a *haciendero* beat a laborer to death, "it would take every ounce of a Constabulary officer's intelligence and energy to get a conviction."

White and other officers quickly became popular socially. The haciendas around Isabela kept open house for Constabulary officers, so that he often rode out to one or another for some snipe or duck shooting, for a supper or dance. Each hacienda was a community in itself, a feudal community of which the haciendero was the overlord. The hacienda house stood in the center of the buildings and dependent's huts. Many miles of uninhabited country might separate one hacienda from the next or from the nearest town. The oxen, carabaos, horses on the fields or the roads belonged to the haciendero. Broad acres of sugarcane and rice, goats, milling machinery, *paraos* and *lorchas* that brought the sugar to the mills or to Iloilo and Cebu—all were his. Even the laborers, men, women and children could be said to be his because they were heavily in debt to him.

The wealthy haciendero lived in state. Fast horses carried him in a *carromata* or *quilez* to the nearest town or to Bacolod when the occasion required. His daughters were often trilingual—at home in Spanish or French, learned in a convent in Hong Kong or Europe. His house was furnished with rococo pictures, vases and other foreign ornaments. An orchestra often played in his sala adorned with various musical instruments.

The life was a blend of Spanish and Malay customs. You could dine off the finest china at a well-appointed table, drink Rioja claret and Frontera sherry or champagne. You could chat in Spanish, French or English with your host's daughters recently arrived from abroad. But if you could see through the walls to the kitchen, you might catch a glimpse of an old Visayan woman squatting on her haunches, smoking a black cigar or chewing her betel nut, eating rice and fish with her hands. She was the mother of the girls.

White believed that in youth and maturity Visayans were Europeanized (perhaps by the second quarter of the 20th century Americanized) but in their old age they would revert to the more comfortable customs of their ancestors.

(Apparently before your time or mine, the Constabulary had a more or less unsullied reputation. There weren't any rumors of money changing hands or an understanding between the PC and bandit groups to divvy up the spoils. This was a period when citizens trusted their military and police and didn't flee in the opposite direction when they saw them. Oh, and it was a time when law enforcement agents actually managed to catch something other than a cold.)

Fear of death

YOUNG BLOOD

Lazaro N. Ervite

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was still a child, I was terribly scared of the dead. The mere sight of a coffin during a wake in our neighborhood would make me sleepless all night as I imagined the dead walking out of the coffin to give me a cold massage.

So scared was I of the dead that I refused to look at my grandmother in her coffin. The more I avoided looking at her the more scared I became. It was only after somebody called me a coward that I joined some of my cousins in taking a quick glance at my dead Lola.

However that fleeting view of the lifeless face of my Lola was etched in my mind, especially her slightly open mouth which had told me many tales about ghosts, fairies and dwarfs. I was a bit unruly and so to keep me from playing outside at night, she warned me that ghosts would bring me to their abode. Her stories fascinated me although they made me terribly scared when I heard the strange sounds of some birds at night for she said that they could be witches.

I felt sad but relieved when she was buried. Sad that I would never see her again but relieved that I wouldn't be seeing her coffin.

Still her death brought a little death to me. I felt that something in me was buried with her, something in me was plunged into the unknown with her. Would she be in the company of the saints or would she be eternally burning in hell? Would she give me a cold massage at night or would she snatch me when I played in the dark and bring me to her abode? At the age of 6, I came face to face with death and had a lot of unanswered questions about it.

Those questions remain unanswered to this day. After all my Lola has not yet come back to tell me about her experience and whether there's life after death.

I am starting to believe that indeed death is a purely individual experience. As Martin Heidegger said, one's death is uniquely one's own; no one can die for someone else.

At the age of 9, I nearly died after I fell from a mango tree. I can't remember exactly what happened. All I can recall is that when I recovered consciousness, I felt an excruciating pain in my two arms, which had been severely fractured. Had I died, would I have been plunged into absolute nothingness? Where would my soul have gone?

When I went for exposure among the fisher folks in Mindanao after graduating from college, I again experienced being close to death. We went to a beach where the waves were far from calm. As I rested after lunch, I was fascinated by the sight of the big waves rolling in the sea and breaking on the shore. I decided to go for a swim. As I played with the waves, the current became more turbulent. I found myself being carried away from the shore. I tried to go against the current, but I couldn't, so I decided to go with the current hoping that it would carry me back to the shore. To my dismay, I was moving farther and farther away. I screamed for help but nobody heard me.

I became even more nervous when I noticed gigantic waves rolling toward me, slowly metamorphosing into rolling coffins and trying to engulf me. I struggled to stay afloat until I was exhausted. My eyes grew dim, and I helplessly accepted the possibility of death.

But the waves slowly carried me ashore about 200 meters from where my companions were. They didn't even know how desperate I had been.

Had I drowned, I would have found answers to my questions about death. That is, if indeed there is life after death. I would have discovered why no dead person has ever dared to come back to shed light on the mystery of death. I would have become reunited with my Lola and other dead relatives. I would have discovered whether there is a God or not.

What if I didn't have a soul and what if there's no such thing as life after death? It would have been my ultimate end and I would have been plunged into nothingness. It would have been the end of my questioning about death. Death would have ceased to become a mystery to me although it would forever remain a mystery to those who were alive because I could not have told them that death was the ultimate end.

One thing is certain: my dead body would have caused headaches to my companions. They would have shared blame for my death and they would probably have been forced to pay for my burial.

If a giant fish had swallowed me, my relatives would have speculated that there was foul play in my disappearance or that I had been abducted. They would have looked for me in vain.

Despite my earlier near-death experiences, I have unmindfully led myself to the claws of death. Last year, in one of the waterfalls in Rizal, I swam in a 20-foot deep water whose strong current could have sucked an average swimmer. The watchman said five people had already drowned in the falls. I didn't but on our way home after the picnic, I became afraid as I reflected on what I had done. Had I drowned, I would have been the sixth victim. When I went to bed that night, I could hardly sleep.

Indeed death looms in the corner. It is real. Sometimes it is even more real than life, but after having escaped the claws of death, I have learned to be comfortable with it. I've realized that since I was born, I was condemned to die although I don't when, how and where I will die.

Moreover, I've realized that the more I avoid death and shield my life, the more likely death will come. Had I failed to let go and struggle against the waves, I could have developed cramps and drowned in the process. Had I feared death after jumping into the waterfalls, the current could have sent me spinning downwards.

I'm not afraid of swimming alone although I'm more careful now. I still climb trees without fear of falling although I see to it that I step on a strong branch. Sometimes, I drive fast and recklessly although I have witnessed several road mishaps.

I still have questions about death that will never be adequately answered but now I feel comfortable living with these unanswered questions. It does not matter to me what happens to me at my death, or whether there's life after death. The thing that matters is my life before death. It is by living life to the full that I can overcome my fear of death. It is by living with a profound awareness and acceptance of the reality of death that I can live life to the full. And it is only then will I realize that death makes life possible.

Lazaro N. Ervite, 26, is an Augustinian novice.

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'Bata, bakit ka gumagawa?'

IT is seven in the evening, and a young boy starts working as a car washer. After working 10 hours, he returns home with P40 in his pocket.

This is the story of a 14-old-boy named Isoy. He is the youngest of four children. His mother died when he was 3, so he and his eldest brother were left in the care of an aunt, who has her own family. They all live in a small house located in a slum area in Manila.

In terms of living conditions, they are no different form their neighbors. Basic needs are lacking. Their electricity and water come from illegal connections.

Isoy rarely sees the rest of his family. An older sister is married and lives with her own family. He seldom sees his father and two older brothers. He cannot even remember the last time they met. When asked why he has to work, Isoy said his father does not provide support.

Isoy wants to be an artist someday. He has dropped out of school but would like to study again if given the chance. He starts working at seven in the evening and usually returns home at five in the morning. He walks home sluggishly, weak from sleepiness and hunger. He feels that he has no choice: he needs to work if he wants to survive.

Being young does not exempt Isoy from experiencing abuse from the other car washers. They put lighted cigarettes between his fingers when he falls asleep at night and forcefully take some of his earnings.

Isoy has had some bad experiences with policemen. He said the police do not pay for the services they get. Once he was taken to jail on suspicion of causing trouble in the community. He was subjected to not only verbal abuse but physical abuse as well. Because of this bitter experience, Isoy feels he can never trust officials again.

The story of Isoy is based on a profile drawn by the Streetchildren and Child Workers Creative Education and Support Center (SCWC).

In recent years, a lot of attention has been given to the issue of children's rights, to the violent and abusive practices against children, and to the increasing use of child labor to boost the global economy. We hope the Philippine government will give these issues greater attention.

However, it is ultimately the people who can reverse this trend that denies the child his lawful rights. The human rights of children must be defended against all those who would destroy his innocence.

—LERRY ANDRADA, MARJHANE CRUZ, 12 Cohen St., Filinvest II, Quezon City 1160

Intriguing

I HAVE been an ardent admirer of Ramon Tulfo's column from the time it was first published in the INQUIRER. I have read his column a great deal and I find it very amusing, exhilarating and of course a bit heart-pounding, although sometimes I feel a little trepidation.

What got my ire was the rejoinder to Tulfo's tirade last Oct. 26 against Cebu customs collector Billy Bibit about the massive smuggling going on in the port of Cebu which I find very intriguing. Of course, I have nothing personal against Tulfo. It's just that I hate people trading barbs, no matter who's telling the truth.

I don't have an iota of doubt about who between the two is telling the truth. After all, we are now in the era of enlightenment.

—ARVIN T. SALIH, NPC-Gov. Camins Avenue, Zamboanga City

Liberal Party remains strong

I READ with dismay and astonishment your editorial last Oct. 10 where the Liberal Party was described as a "pathetic shell" of its former self and "nothing more than lamentable relics." You claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo breathed "life into the skeletal remains" of the LP, presuming that the LP is in its deathbed.

I wonder how you came to those conclusions. The LP is the oldest active Philippine political party, with 56 years of continuous service to the Filipino people. In the House of Representatives, we are the third largest party with 22 members. We maintain our presence in the Senate with Sen. Francis Pangilinan and in the Cabinet with Secretaries Mar Roxas and Mike Defensor. On the local level, we have six governors, five vice governors and three mayors, seven vice mayors and 73 councilors of various cities, including Manila. We have 40 provincial board members and 87 municipal mayors, 82 vice mayors and 641 councilors. The Comelec identified us the fourth largest party in the 2001 elections.

The LP has a tradition of sacrifice and martyrdom led by Ninoy Aquino and Evelio Javier. During martial law, rather than give legitimacy to the dictatorship, it boycotted elections and risked political oblivion. After Edsa I, the party dominated the Senate under Jovy Salonga. During the impeachment trial, LP members were among the first to sign the complaint and two—Representatives Tañada and Nachura—served in the prosecution panel.

Unlike other political parties the LP remains strong despite being out of power. It maintains a national headquarters in Manila with a full-time staff attending to party building and networking. It has a political institute that serves as a think-tank and holds seminars to orient party members on Liberal Democracy and its Vision and Program of Government.

The LP is the founding chair of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats and the only Asian member of Liberal International. Its youth wing, Kalipi, is the largest and one of the most active political organizations in the country.

—ELEAZAR P. QUINTO,
director general, Liberal Party,
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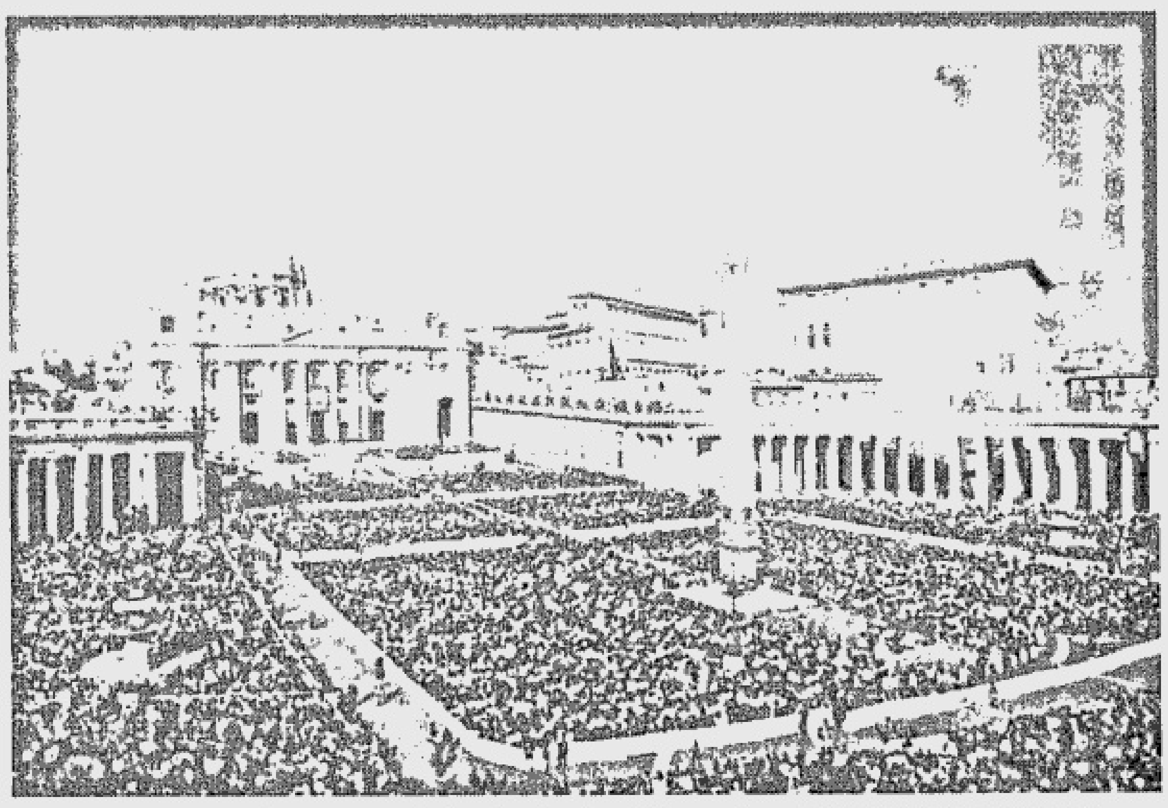
Magsaysay Blvd.,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

Seeking holiness in ordinary life



I'M a freshman engineering student at UP Diliman and a member of the university's track team. I watched the canonization rites of Josemaria Escriva recently with a group of friends. It was cool!

I was supposed to be in Rome, too, as one of the volunteers, but had to stay behind because of pressing academic work and athletic commitments.

I was sure that the INQUIRER would put the canonization on its front page, and I was not disappointed. The picture of St. Peter's Square jampacked with pilgrims was impressive! But when I read the accompanying article, I was disappointed to find some inaccuracies and inconsistencies.

I don't pretend to be an expert on Opus Dei. I'm not a member. I got to know the Work and some of the members only four months ago, when I moved into a residence hall run by members of Opus Dei. (It's a homey place in UP Village Diliman, Quezon City.) The lives of the people who make up the staff, their prayers, their work, their friendship are an open book. Thus I have a pretty good picture of what Opus Dei is. The article called Opus Dei a "conservative Catholic group," and in the same breath said it is dedicated to "striving for holiness in everyday life." For me, seeking holiness in ordinary life is a radical—not a conservative—idea. I guess that like me, most of my high school classmates would not have even thought that this is possible. Like, wow, the track star I hope to be someday could also become a saint!

To set the record straight, there were 80 (not eight) young volunteers from the Philippines. I know this because I was supposed to be one of them. Besides, they were not sent by Opus Dei; they were volunteers. They raised funds for their airfare and pocket money. I personally know 34 of them, and I can can tell you that for most of them (UP students like myself), it was difficult. Up to the last moment, many were still borrowing clothes (and *maleta*) from relatives and friends. Besides, they had to take exams and complete their academic requirements a week earlier than their classmates.

With regard to "the many suits and conservative dresses and strings of pearls worn by the faithful to the ceremony," I would say it was not so much a matter of being "upscale" but of having good manners. Having said that, the footage of the crowd did not show many suits, conservative dresses and pearls, except for those who were in the VIP section. All of us at the Opus Dei center are from the middle class.

Opus Dei is not for drab and stiff people. The student volunteers say there was enthusiastic cheering for the Pope before and after the canonization ceremony, as he drove through the crowd. The whole St. Peter's Square was filled with chanting, singing and dancing on Oct. 7 during an audience with the Pope. Indeed, the pilgrims filled the streets of Rome on the 6th and 7th with joyous celebration.

—MARCO DUMALIANG,
UP Diliman Track Team,
17 Maginhawa St., UP Village,
1101 Diliman, Quezon City

More funds for local governments

THIS has reference to the letter to the editor published last Oct. 30 and titled "IRA release bill not needed" by Eligio M. Pastorin.

Pastorin claims that Senate Bill No. 875 filed by Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta is not necessary since the problem is covered by certain provisions of the Constitution and the Local Government Code, supported by the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Pimentel vs. Aquirre.

The purpose of SB 875 is to directly address the problems faced by local government units (LGUs) arising largely from inadequate funding in general and specifically problems in the health sector which affect the delivery of public services. The principal thrust is to correct the disparity between the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to local government units and the cost of devolved services.

SB 875 does not propose to mandate the "automatic allocation of the IRA" which is already covered by the Constitution and the Local Government Code. The bill seeks to remedy the financial status of LGUs by increasing their funding. The amount of the funds is computed by taking out certain items in the computation of the IRA and providing an "escalation clause" for those items which will thereafter be rechanneled directly to them. We use the phrase "special fund" merely as a convenient label to differentiate it from the IRA for discussion purposes.

In specific terms, the bill computes the "special fund" by first removing from the respective IRAs of the LGUs the cost of "devolved functions and personnel in city hospitals, excluding their capital outlay." This cost is thereafter to be escalated at 10 percent a year starting from the effectivity of the Local Government Code. This computed cost or "special fund" is then to be distributed and directly remitted to the LGUs.

The source of Pastorin's misunderstanding is the use of the phrase "distributed and directly remitted to the local government units concerned." While it is true that this phrase appears in the proposed bill, it does not refer to the IRA per LGU but rather to the fund discussed in the previous paragraph. The insertion of the phrase "directly remitted" is a means of ensuring, once the bill is enacted into law, that there will be no misunderstanding or ambiguity in the executive department's duty of treating the "special fund."

It bears mentioning that the same bill proposes to change the formula in the determination of shares of LGUs by laying greater emphasis on population by increasing the same from 50 percent to 55 percent.

—DENNIS N. ACORDA,
chief legislative officer, Office of
Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Senate,
Roxas Boulelvad, Pasay City

Tested by floods and typhoons

THIS has reference to the article published last Oct. 9, titled "Live at your own risk," by Tonette Orejas.

The issue pertains to the San Isidro Resettlement Project about which the same author had written last Aug. 9. It appears now that a non-controversial issue is repeatedly being used by some persons to destroy the good image of the 51st Engineer Brigade, Philippine Army as well as the good names of some top military officials, myself included.

Please be informed that all the defects noted in the article have already been corrected as a result of my letter to Flor Arrozal last April 2002 and not because a resident had complained to the media. The housing units we constructed have been tested and proved to be strong enough to withstand a series of typhoons and floods.

We would like to state that the use of funds intended for the project was in accordance with accounting and auditing procedures.

We have noted also that the cost comparison was exaggerated. The housing units cited as basis for comparison were built in 1995-1997 and these had different floor areas and different construction methods and requirements. Ours is deeper and higher, but this was not noted in the story. The floors sit on two meters of landfill. There is also a provision for loft expansion, thus the housing units we built have a higher ridge.

—FRANCISCO S. BRAVO,
brigadier general AFP,
51st Engineer Brigade,
Camp Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza,
Libis, Quezon City

Strong families make a strong republic

WITH THE SURFEIT of negative things plaguing our country nowadays, like the worsening crime situation, too much politics, kidnapping, lack of employment, etc., it seems that the practical thing to do is just pack up one's bags and search for the proverbial greener pastures in other lands. One cannot be blamed for doing so. Those who leave are not less nationalistic than those who stick it out here. That's just the way it is. After all one cannot eat nationalism.

However I believe that there are many positive things that can be said about our country even if our family was a victim of an Akyat Bahay gang more than a year ago (which has not been solved, by the way). These include our strong family ties and our practice of taking care of our elders and not just leaving them in homes for the elderly (if one can afford them). We could proudly say that at least in these two areas, we are "more advanced" or "better off" than many countries of the First World where the individual is paramount, not the family. No wonder most of our countrymen working abroad wish to spend their retirement here, knowing that they will be cared for by their families.

These unique Filipino traits make me believe that all is not lost and that our country will someday rise from the doldrums (with or without the help of our politicians). In the final analysis, a "strong republic" requires loving, stable and intact families. That, I think, is the "tried and tested" formula.

—GABRIEL BABAN KEITH,
Kitma Road, Bakakeng Central,
Baguio City

'Great satan' doesn't scare Iranians

FEATURE

Paul Hughes

TEHRAN—The gentle music piped around the Iranian capital's latest cultural exhibition sounds innocent enough—until you listen to the lyrics: "America, death to you. The blood of our youth is dripping from your nails." But the anti-US rhetoric echoing through the halls of the "First Perspective Exhibition on How to Avoid the Great Satan" appears to be falling on deaf ears.

As Iran prepares to mark on Monday the 23rd anniversary of the day when radical students turned hostage-takers overpowered guards at the US Embassy in Tehran, few Iranians can muster much enthusiasm for bashing the Islamic Republic's arch-foe. "We don't hate the Americans," whispered Shafii, 33, one of seven guides who accompanied two Reuters reporters around the "Great Satan" exhibition in a Defense Ministry warehouse in northern Tehran. There were no other visitors.

"We want peace between America and Iran, not war," he said, while one of his colleagues explained a colorful mural depicting Uncle Sam standing behind Saddam Hussein to portray Washington's perceived support for the Iraqi president during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Worshippers at Friday prayer meetings across Iran still chant "Death to Israel! Death to America!" at specific points during the weekly sermons. And thousands will gather at an official demonstration on Monday at the gates of the vast former US diplomatic compound to heap scorn on the so-called "Den of Spies." The embassy siege, in which 52 Americans were held for 444 days, prompted then US President Jimmy Carter to freeze Iranian assets and sever diplomatic ties with Tehran.

"Never did we imagine that our act of protest would have a far reaching impact on the political history of our country, and of the region," former hostage-taker Massoumeh Ebtekar, now Iran's vice president, said in her 2000 account of the siege, "Takeover in Tehran."

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founding father of the 1979 Islamic revolution, was reported to be initially unsure about the student's action but changed his mind when he saw the crowds of demonstrators gathering in front of the embassy compound to voice their support for the takeover. He hailed the students for launching "a second revolution, greater than the first."

But as a recent opinion poll revealed, 23 years later most Iranians are tired of the hard-line establishment's determination to keep Iran isolated from the world superpower. The survey showed almost three-quarters of Iranians want a resumption of some kind of dialogue with Washington. Moreover, despite Iran being lumped together with Iraq and North Korea in President George W. Bush's "axis of evil," the poll showed nearly half thought US policy on Iran was "to some extent correct."

It was a like a red rag to a bull for Iran's hard-line clerical establishment which considers any mention of talks with Washington anathema. Despite protestations by President Mohammad Khatami's moderate government, the head of the polling institute that carried out the survey has been thrown in jail awaiting trial on charges of fabricating the poll and espionage.

But the conservatives who draw moral support from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and control Iran's military, judiciary, broadcast media and powerful constitutional watchdogs are fighting a losing battle, analysts say. "The incident over the poll is a classic example of the conservatives in denial," said Ali Ansari, a lecturer in Middle East history at Durham University, England. Unlike other countries in the region, he said, "the people on the street in Iran are not anti-American. The anti-US slogans are totally out of tune with the people."

Thanks to the Internet and illegal satellite television, US popular culture is king among young Iranians who are a vital constituency in a country where 70 percent of the population is under 30 and has no real memory of the 1979 Islamic revolution or the US Embassy siege. Teenage boys sport baseball caps of US teams and eagerly swap illegal CDs of the latest music from the Billboard charts. Despite the international acclaim accorded to Iran's burgeoning film makers, Hollywood movies are the top sellers in the thriving black market in video rentals. And while hard-liners tried to ban the sale of Barbie dolls earlier this year because of their potential corrupting influence on young girls, the icons of American culture, Coca-Cola and Pepsi, are now widely available and recording growing sales.

Khatami's government may have been furious to be branded on par with Saddam in Bush's "axis of evil" speech, particularly after the important behind-the-scenes cooperation it provided Washington in toppling the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Despite persistent accusations by Washington that Iran has given safe haven to fleeing al-Qaida fighters and is developing its own weapons of mass destruction—allegations which Tehran flatly denies—Iranian officials have recently spoken of a softer tone emerging from the United States. Diplomats in Tehran have told Reuters that Washington has sent a message to Iran, by way of a third country, reassuring the government that Iran is not next on its war on terror list. "America is not going to bomb a country where the people wear baseball caps and drink Coca-Cola," one local analyst said. "You don't bomb people who like you."

Many of the radical students who stormed the US Embassy 23 years ago are now Iran's most vocal reformists and fully support Khatami's policy of engagement with the West. "The slogans that carried us forward as revolutionary students in 1980 might no longer hold all the answers to the problems of today," said Ebtekar.

Back at the "Great Satan" exhibition there are slogans aplenty. "Negotiations and talks with America are betrayal and foolish" reads one quotation attributed to Khamenei.

The exhibition contains a series of scenes "to show the new generation what crimes America has carried out in Iran and the rest of the world," said Ali Mirzaei, one of the guides.

A mock-up of the US Embassy, complete with copies of the "secret" documents allegedly uncovered, is presented together with innovative recreations of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the Vietnam war and US support for Israel.

Another room attacks the symbols of Western cultural depravity such as CDs, gambling, drugs and even pet dogs.

In the room a male dummy, wearing a baseball cap and engrossed in a glossy magazine, is about to fall off a precipice.

"When young people are busy with the cultural distractions of the West they don't have time to move with the (Islamic) revolution," Mirzaei said. *Reuters*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

HARROWING HALLOWEEN IN ITALY

Quake wrecks nursery; 23 killed

SAN GIULIANO DI PUGLIA, Italy—Hope was fading fast as Italian rescuers searched desperately on Friday for survivors of an earthquake which killed at least 23 people, including 21 children, when their school collapsed.

The tremor, the strongest to hit Italy since 1997, rocked the south-central region of Molise, wrecking the nursery school and leaving at least 3,000 homeless. Two elderly women were also killed when their homes in the medieval town collapsed.

"It would be difficult for children to survive in these conditions for this long," civil protection officer Ernesto Angelotti said as firefighters and policemen dug with their hands through rubble in cold weather.

Desperate parents, some shrieking and wailing, held an all-night vigil in the farm town of San Giuliano di Puglia as they waited for news of their children, who had been enjoying a Halloween party when the quake struck on Thursday morning.

But signs of life under the debris of the school fizzled out and hopes receded of finding alive the seven people still missing—six children believed to be under the age of 10 and a teacher, according to rescue workers.

"There's no noise," Angelotti said just before dawn. "There are no readings from the heat detectors. The bulldozers are moving in and now, I'm afraid, there is very little hope."

Rescuers, working in temperatures of around 6 degrees Celsius (43 degrees Fahrenheit), had heard children's voices from under the rubble late on Thursday.

More than 30 people had been pulled alive from the flattened school, which in aerial pictures stood out as the only completely destroyed building in the town.

Rescuers said the school, built in the 1950s, was poorly constructed as its walls could not withstand the weight of the heavy concrete in the roof. *Reuters*

ANXIOUS parents wrapped in blankets watch the progress of the rescue operation. AP

FIREMEN dig through the rubble of a collapsed nursery as hopes recede they'll find more survivors. AFP

8-year-old boy pulled out alive from school rubble

SAN GIULIANO DI PUGLIA, Italy—Eight-year-old Angelo spent 16 hours trapped under concrete, his elbow touching the corpse of a schoolmate.

When rescuers pulled him alive from the twisted ruins of his school, it was a moment of triumph in a long night of anguish.

"He was practically covered in rocks and his elbow was touching another kid who was already dead," said Arturo Pierro, who labored for hours to rescue Angelo.

"He kept screaming 'help me.' It was terrible," Pierro, who works for the Civil Protection Service, said.

"But little by little we managed to pull the debris away. At the end there was great joy."

Angelo escaped the destruction of his school with a dislocated shoulder and two broken legs. Out of sight of reporters and camera crews, he was taken to a local hospital.

While Angelo's family celebrated his dawn rescue from the worst earthquake to hit Italy in five years, others in the medieval hillside town of San Giuliano di Puglia wailed for the children they lost.

"I will die with him! I will die with him!" shrieked one young mother huddled close to the rescue scene. A man aged in his thirties standing nearby cried "Holy mother! My poor child!" and fainted.

At least 20 children were crushed to death when the F. Iovine School collapsed. As day broke on Friday, rescuers held out little hope that any of the eight people believed still under the rubble would survive.

Parents who had sent their children to school for Halloween festivities ended up enduring a terrible night of uncertainty.

One father yelled at the heavens when police told him his child's school had become his grave.

When the man fainted minutes later, his wife barely registered his fall. She sat huddled in a blanket, staring fixedly at the rubble while ambulance workers rushed to help him.

"My poor baby, my poor baby," she sobbed, rocking on her wooden chair.

Dust-covered rescue workers desperately sifted through the debris for signs of life, surfacing grimly.

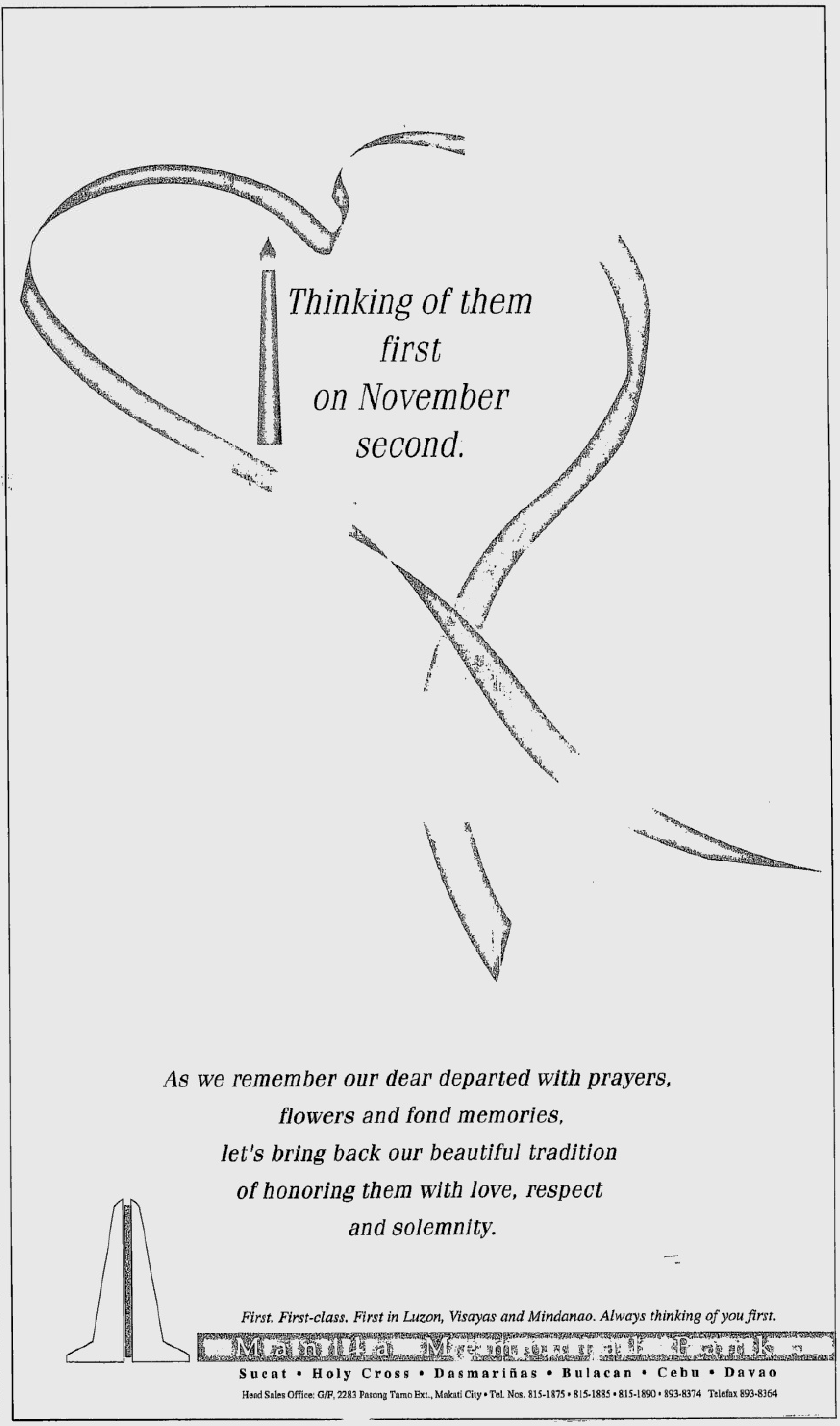
"I've seen some pretty awful things but this is different. These are children," one watery-eyed fireman said as bulldozers rumbled behind him.

Red and blue plastic hoops and green sand trays poking out from the concrete slabs and twisted metal were a chilling reminder of the young lives cut short by the quake.

Bystanders tried to sleep in cars or on plastic chairs on the cracked streets.

As sun rose over the yellow, pink and white houses in the farming town, residents emerged from their make-shift beds to assess the damage to their homes.

With doors wrenched out of their frames, gaping holes in walls and mouth-like cracks running the width of some houses, most people were scared to venture inside. *Reuters*



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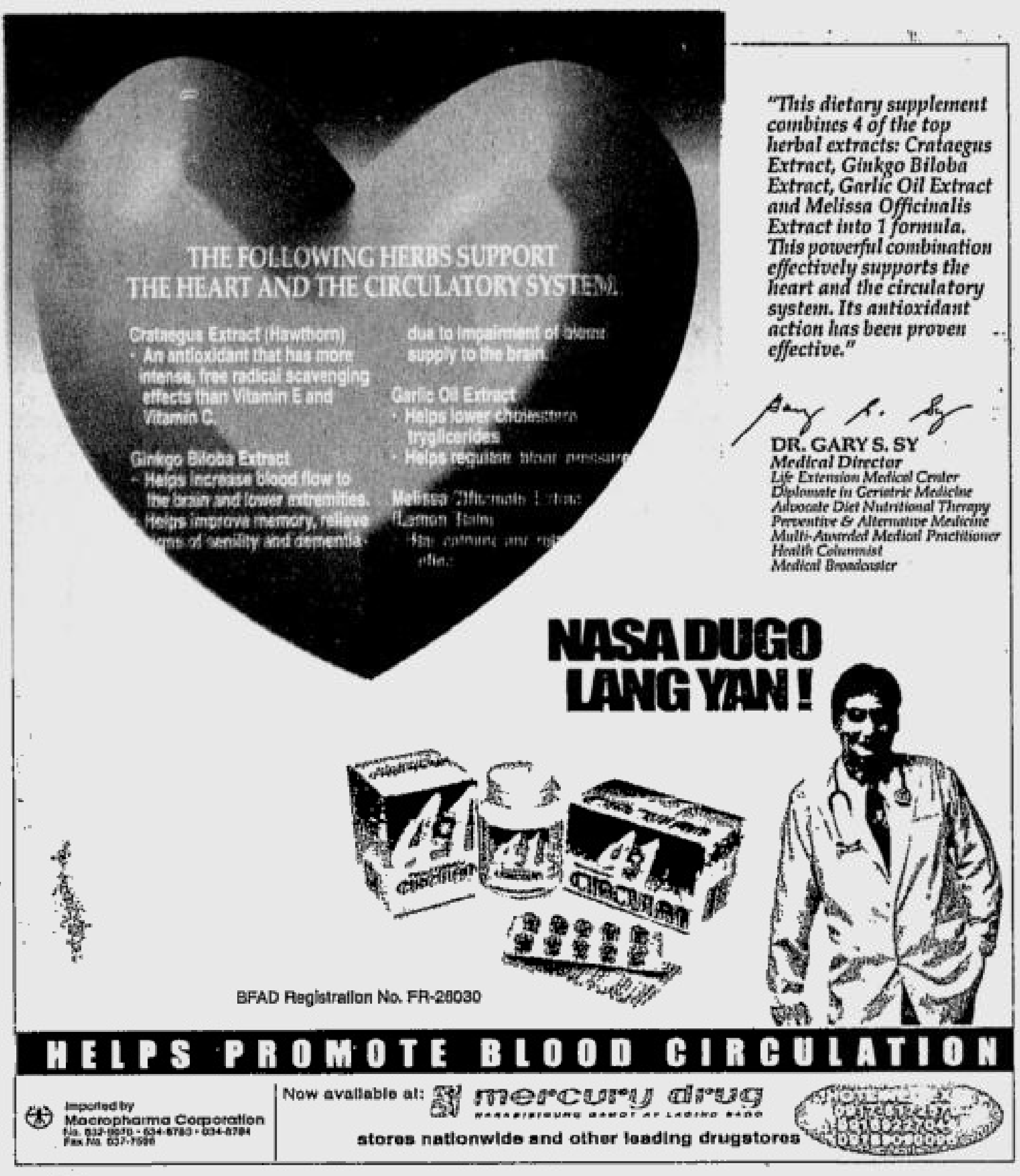
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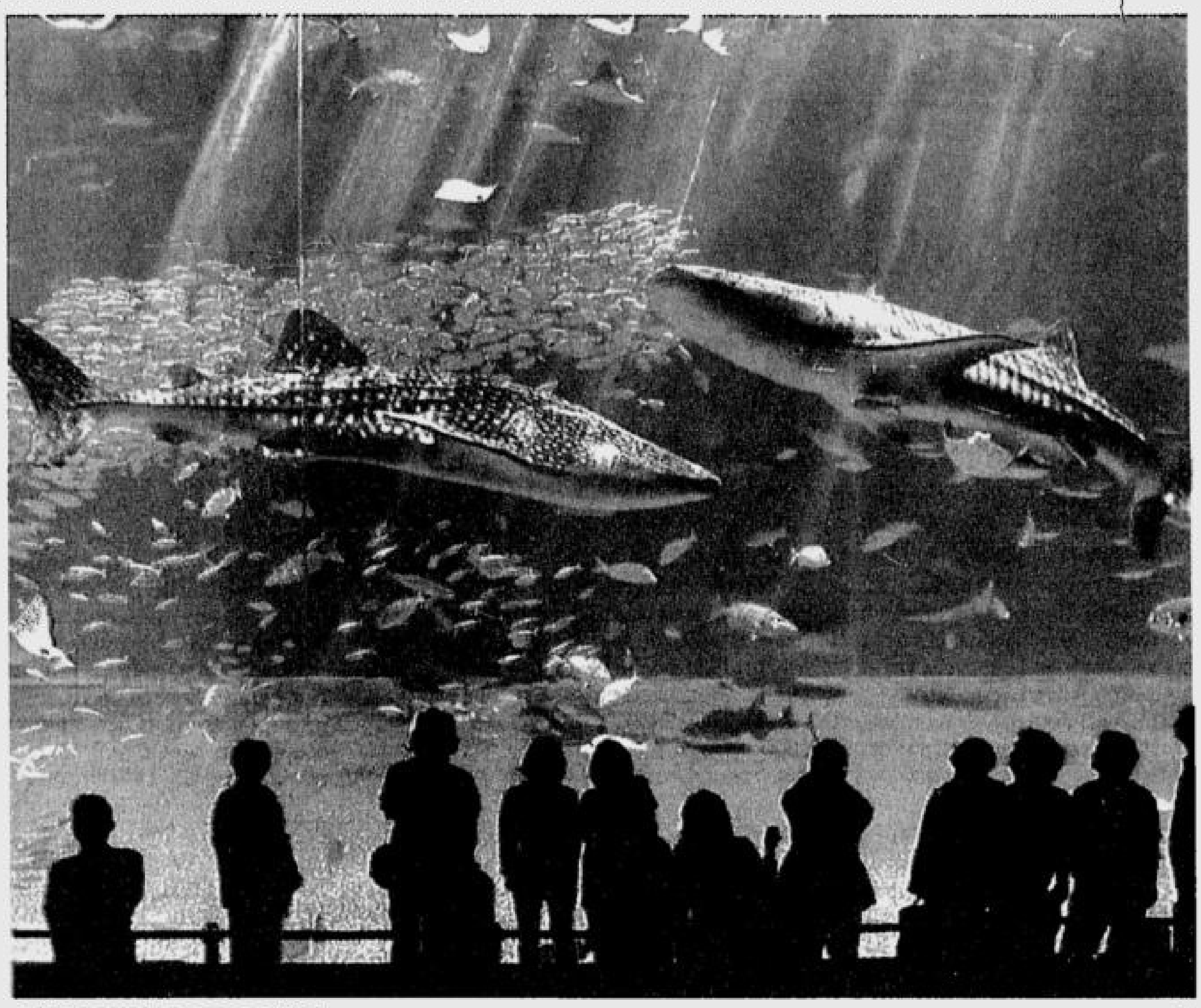

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Palestine suicide attacks 'crimes against humanity'

JERUSALEM—Plotters and perpetrators of Palestinian suicide attacks against Israeli civilians are guilty of "crimes against humanity," and Yasser Arafat hasn't done enough to deter them, a leading international human rights group said in a new report.

Human Rights Watch, in a 170-page report released Friday, hopes to ratchet up pressure against Palestinian militants behind the attacks. It calls for prosecution of those responsible and said no Israeli military action or violations of international law justified such attacks.

"The people who carry out suicide bombings are not martyrs, they're war criminals, and so are the people who help to plan such attacks," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of the New York-based group, in a statement. "They clearly fall under the category of crimes against humanity."

The report—"Erased in a Moment: Suicide Bombing Attacks against Israeli Civilians"—was the first of its kind by Human Rights Watch. London-based human rights group Amnesty International issued a similar study in July.

The Human Rights Watch report examined bombings by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—the militant groups that have most often claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The group said Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Abdullah Shallah should face criminal investigation for their roles in the attacks.

Three Hamas leaders in Gaza said they would not comment before seeing the report.

According to data compiled by The Associated Press, a total of 80 suicide bombings have left 294 people dead since Sept. 29, 2000.

Human Rights Watch said it did not find evidence that Arafat or the Palestinian Authority ever had a hand in attacks against Israelis, but said the authority hasn't done enough to prosecute those responsible.

"The greatest failure of President Arafat and the PA leadership is their unwillingness to deploy the criminal justice system to deter the suicide bombings, particularly in 2001, when the PA was most capable of doing so," Roth said.

However, he said Arafat and the authority "bear a high degree of political responsibility for the atrocities."

Arafat, in an interview with Associated Press Television News on Thursday, said suicide attacks against civilians were "immoral." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Spaceship docks

KOROLYOV, Russia—A Russian spacecraft carrying two cosmonauts and a Belgian astronaut docked with the international space station on Friday, just over two days after lifting off from the Kazakh steppe. Its controls on autopilot, the Soyuz TMA-1 spacecraft moored itself to the station in an automatic docking procedure. The craft was carried into orbit by a Soyuz FG rocket launched from Baikonur in Kazakhstan on Wednesday. Flight engineers monitoring the docking on a large screen at the mission control center in Korolyov, just outside Moscow, burst into applause as the spacecraft met the international station. The crew had reported on the approach that all was proceeding normally. They are set to return to Earth in another Soyuz, leaving their own ship behind as a new lifeboat for the station's permanent crew. *AP*

2 welders held

HO CHI MINH CITY—Two welders have been arrested for accidentally starting the deadly office blaze in Vietnam which left at least 61 people dead, officials said Friday. Nguyen Phu Tin and Pham Viet Thanh were arrested Thursday and have been accused of sparking the inferno which tore through the seven-story Saigon International Business Center on Tuesday. The two men had been working at a discotheque on the second floor when sparks from their equipment set off the blaze, foreign ministry official Nguyen Van Niem said. Both men are the subject of a police investigation for "breach of fire safety regulations under Article 240 of the Vietnam Penal Code," the official added. *AFP*

Off life support

LOS ANGELES—A US judge ordered on Thursday that a baby, apparently injured by severe shaking, be taken off life support, a move that could cause death and ultimately lead to murder charges for his father. The order, sought by the baby's mother, is expected to lead to 13-month-old Christopher Ibarra's dad being charged with murder if the infant dies when his respirator is switched off. Judge Richard Behn said he agreed with medical evidence that the life support machines were simply "keeping the shell of what Christopher was alive." The child's father, Moises Ibarra, 24, and his 23-year-old mother Tamara Sepulveda, have been locked in a legal squabble over whether the baby should be allowed to live or die. The mother wants the child to "go to heaven." Ibarra wants to give the youngster a chance to live, a move that Sepulveda says is aimed at helping Ibarra avoid murder charges. The boy's father allegedly shook his then-eight-month-old son so violently last December that the infant's brain stem snapped, prompting experts to conclude that he has no chance of recovery. *AFP*

Halloween holdup

VIENNA—A man disguised in a Halloween "Scream" movie mask startled a postal worker delivering pension payments in Vienna and got away with the cash, police said. Police said they were looking for the robber who immobilized the woman and grabbed an unspecified amount of money, intended for the November pension payments. The elongated and hooded white ghost mask, reminiscent of Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream," has been a popular one-stop disguise for revelers during Halloween, the Oct. 31 festival celebrating ghosts, ghouls and supernatural occurrences. *Reuters*

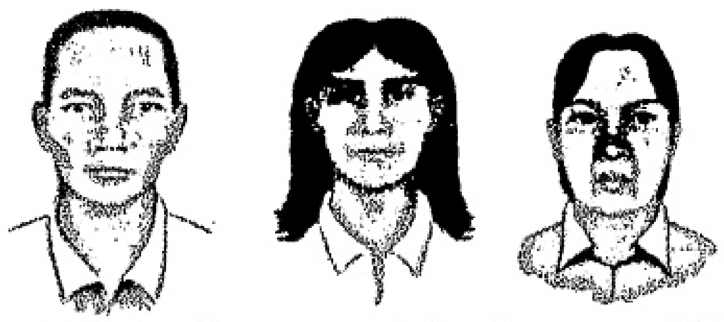
Even spookier

NEW YORK—This year's installment of the rowdy Halloween parade in New York's Greenwich Village mixed the traditional witches and ghosts with something perhaps even spookier—costumes of crooked CEOs: "I stole your 401(k) (retirement funds) money! How's that for scary?" said Jason Mietzel, who was dressed in a suit and tie and had streaks of fake blood streaming down his face. He was among thousands of costumed revelers who marched Thursday along Manhattan's Sixth Avenue in a parade that has grown from a small house-to-house walk in 1973 to a spectacle billed as the nation's largest public celebration of Halloween. More than a million people now gather each year to watch, organizers say. *AP*

Ecstacy bust

BANGKOK—Thai police said on Friday they seized their largest haul of the illegal party drug ecstasy, confiscating some 62,000 pills and arresting two Singaporean men and an Indonesian on drug-trafficking charges. Thailand, battling a flood of methamphetamine or speed pills commonly used by Thai youngsters, says ecstasy use is also on the rise. Thai anti-narcotics officials said tipoffs from Swiss and British agents led to the arrest of two men, identified as Hasan, a 41-year-old Indonesian and Singaporean Tee Chong Lim, 24, at a Bangkok hotel on Thursday. Another Singaporean, Seo Seng Nan, 43, was later arrested at Bangkok International airport after arriving from Hamburg via Zurich with a stash of pills in a travel case. If found guilty by a Thai court, all three face a maximum penalty of death by firing squad. *Reuters*

Indons say they're closing in on Bali bombers



POLICE sketches of three suspects in Bali bombing.

REUTERS

BALI, Indonesia—Indonesian police raided a house and found a photograph matching a police sketch of one of three suspects in the Oct. 12 blasts in Bali that killed nearly 200 people, mostly foreign tourists.

Police also said they were closing in on the three suspects, who allegedly rented a car used in the blast.

US Ambassador Ralph Boyce, in Bali to survey the bombing scene and lay a wreath, said Friday that the United States would provide assistance for both the investigation and reconstruction efforts. Boyce said Washington was "still assessing" the nature of assistance and the amount.

The Bali police released results of their forensic examination of the bombing site on Friday.

About 120 Australian police and intelligence officers were working in Bali with detectives from Indonesia, the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries.

Indonesian Defense Minister Matori Abdul Jalil has accused the al-Qaida terror network of being involved in the Bali bombings—the world's most deadly terrorist attack since Sept. 11, 2001.

Indonesian chief investigator, Maj. Gen. I Made Pastika, said police were exploring the possibility that Indonesians trained in bomb making skills in Libya and Afghanistan were involved in the Bali blasts.

Boyce was at the end of a two-day visit to Bali, where he was scheduled to visit the Bali governor, the Indonesian chief investigator and blast victims at the main hospital.

He said Bali was a reminder that terrorist attacks were possible anywhere.

"What we have seen is that no place is immune from this possibility and that goes for every country in the world," he said. "We together must fight so that it (terrorism) cannot destroy our lives or the open democracy which Indonesians and Americans alike cherish."

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A police spokesperson in East Java, Sad Harunantyo, told private radio El-Shinta on Thursday that police were searching for one of the suspects in Malang, East Java.

"We have questioned his relatives," Harunantyo said.

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The Australian findings contrast with those of Indonesians investigating the blasts, who say they have found traces of other explosives at the scene that were imported from abroad.

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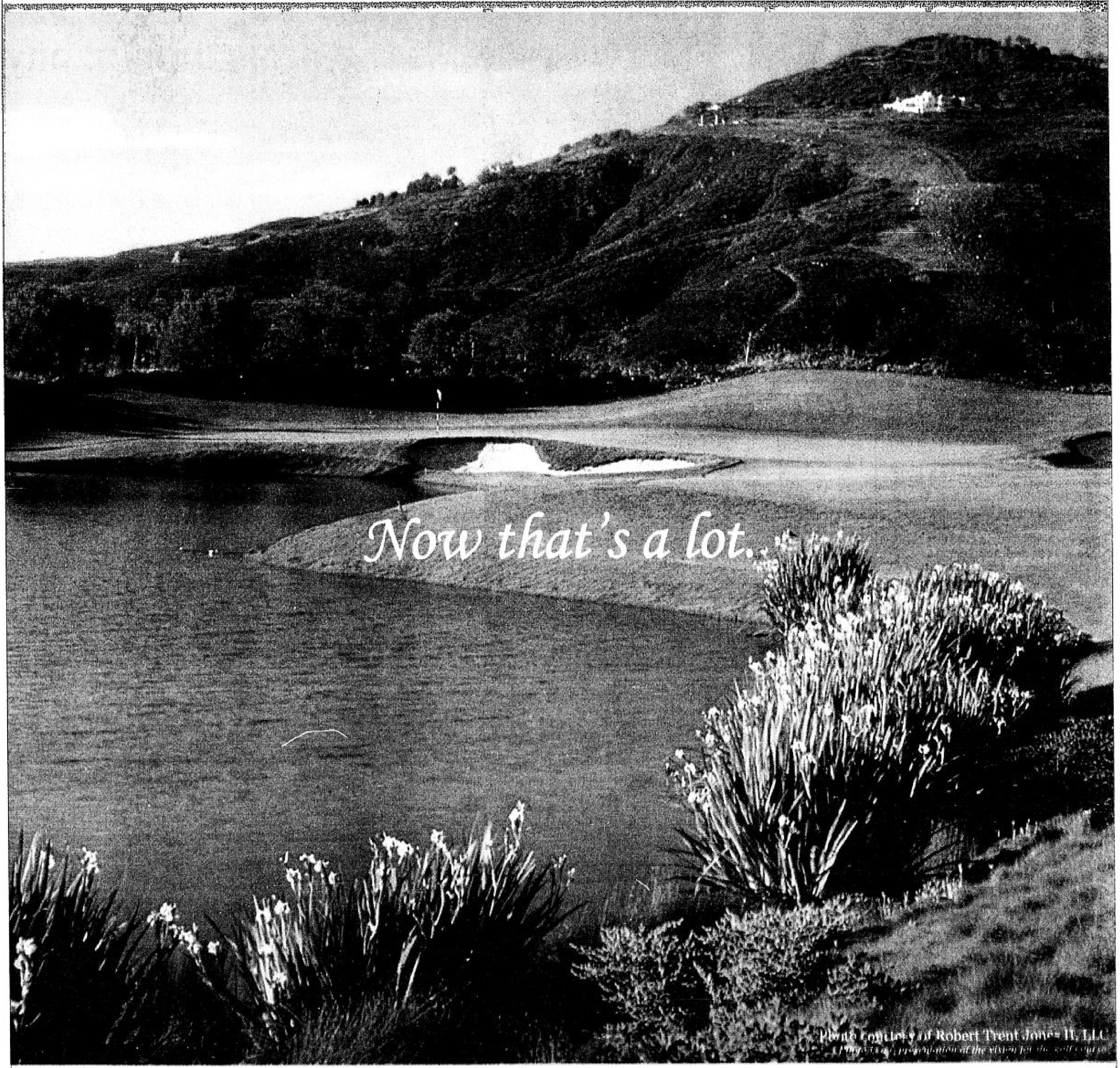

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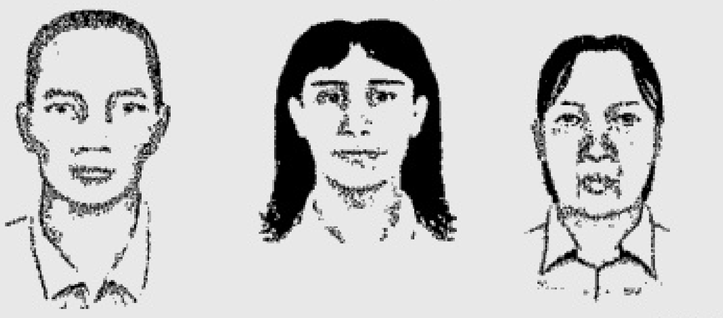

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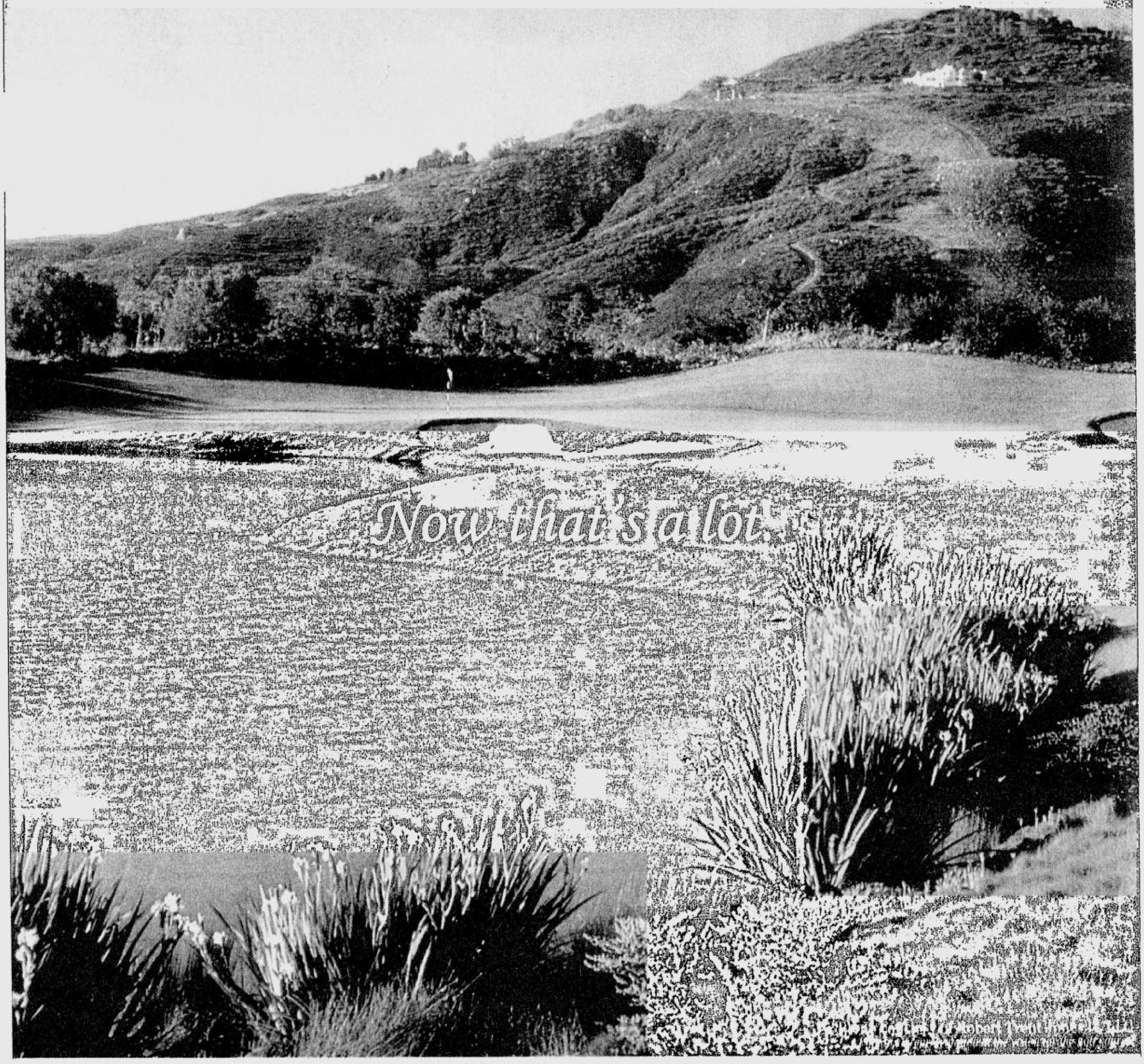

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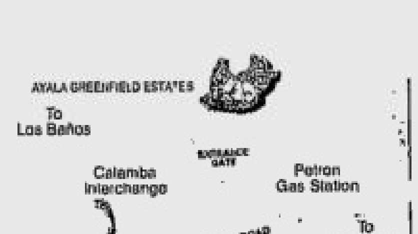

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NCIP sued over ancestral land titles

BAGUIO CITY—An Ibaloi family here has sued the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) last week to compel the release of more than 600 ancestral land titles which the NCIP, under the administration of former President Joseph Estrada, signed last year.

The new set of NCIP commissioners, led by its chair, Evelyn Dunuan, froze the release of these titles because of charges that these documents were "midnight titles" facilitated by former NCIP Chair David Daoas during the last days of the Estrada administration.

Dunuan is preparing the release of 23 of Daoas' first Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs). Earlier, Dunuan issued the first Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to a 29,400-hectare ancestral domain in Bakun, Benguet in July.

The petitioners, Reuel, Andrew and Adon Carantes, asked the regional trial court here to order the NCIP to release their CALT, representing some of the claims of their great grandfather, Kustacio Carantes, which Daoas had earlier certified.

"We realize that by filing this suit, we will be asserting the validity of all 600 or so (CADTs), which Dunuan had not released . . . We are questioning her fitness to decide on a case such as ours where papers and documents are in order," said Andrew, 42, an instructor of the Philippine Military Academy.

The Carantes petition cites the fact that Dunuan "never forwarded (the 600 CALTs) to the Register of Deeds . . . for registration . . . (which is the NCIP's) ministerial duty."

"For several occasions, petitioners inquired about the issuance of their (CALT), but were merely informed that there were irregularities in the (document's) processing . . . So it has to be re-processed, which means that the petitioners (have) to go back to zero (in order) to start (their claims) all over again," the petition reads.

Both Dunuan and NCIP Cordillera director Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, the petitioners' cousin, declined to issue a statement.

But Dunuan insisted last month that the 600 CALTs were being reviewed, in order to strengthen these documents against potential counter suits from multinational corporations, including mining firms.

Daoas, in a telephone interview from Manila, acknowledged that the suit would "be my vindication, after I was dragged (by the government) into so many news reports accusing me of some anomaly for releasing these titles."

"I would have been willing to be charged (for signing the CALTs), rather than be accused of doing nothing. They underwent the proper procedures, and all of these titles were processed earlier by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2000," Daoas said.

The Carantes brothers are core members of a 20-year-old Baguio band called Bag-iw.

They now plan to convert Bag-iw into a lobby instrument to raise public awareness about the Ibalois' crisis involving their ancestral land stakes in Baguio.

"Our father (Solomon Carantes) died after fighting to reclaim our (9.5-ha) ancestral land (where the DENR's Environmental Research Station now stands in front of Camp John Hay). We were left to continue the fight on our own, whether through our music or through our lobbying," said Reuel, 45, the eldest and a professional musician. *Vincent Cabreza and Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Boracay resort owners oppose tourism fee

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, AKLAN—Resort owners here are opposing a proposal of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) to collect a P100-fee for foreign tourists coming to this world-famous beach resort.

The "tourism development fee," proposed in June by the PTA, will be collected from foreign visitors each time they visit the island, said Mayor Ciceron Cawaling of Malay town where the island is located.

Under the proposal, P50 of the P100 collected will go to the PTA to subsidize the water system and pay for loans in the construction of the island's sewerage system. P40 will go to the provincial government while the rest will go to Malay.

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said the proposal is still being discussed by the PTA and the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) to find ways to reduce the water rates in the island and help pay for the construction of the sewerage system.

He said the cost of water in the island is too expensive. Resort owners pay P50 per cubic meter of water, which goes up to P75 per cubic meter as consumption increases. The cost for residential use runs to P25 per cubic meter.

The BFI members are wary that the additional fee could discourage foreign visitors. The BFI is a group representing owners of restaurants, resorts, dive shops, supermarkets, banks and market stalls on the island.

"It has to be studied well especially on how much and the manner the fee is going to be collected," said Rowen Aguirre, a member of the BFI board of directors.

He said the group is not totally opposed to the plan but stressed that the fee should not be made to appear as an additional imposition on foreign tourists.

David Goldberg, a Swiss who operates Aloja Deli on the island, said it should be clear how the collected revenues from the proposed fee would be spent.

"We want clear accountability," he said.

Fisheries office fails to help wounded whale

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A wounded dwarf sperm whale was forced to go to the shoreline of Barangay Bucana here for help but failed to get one.

Local fishers discovered the dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia Simus*) at around 3 a.m. Monday. It had a gaping two-inch wound on its body.

But Romulo Nicdao of the City Agriculture Office's Fishery Regulatory Services said there was no way they could help the whale, which measured about 3.8 meters in length and 2.3 meters in width.

He said they were not capable of treating the mammal. Local fishers and rescue teams tried several times to pull the whale back to the deep water. But it kept coming back, apparently asking for help.

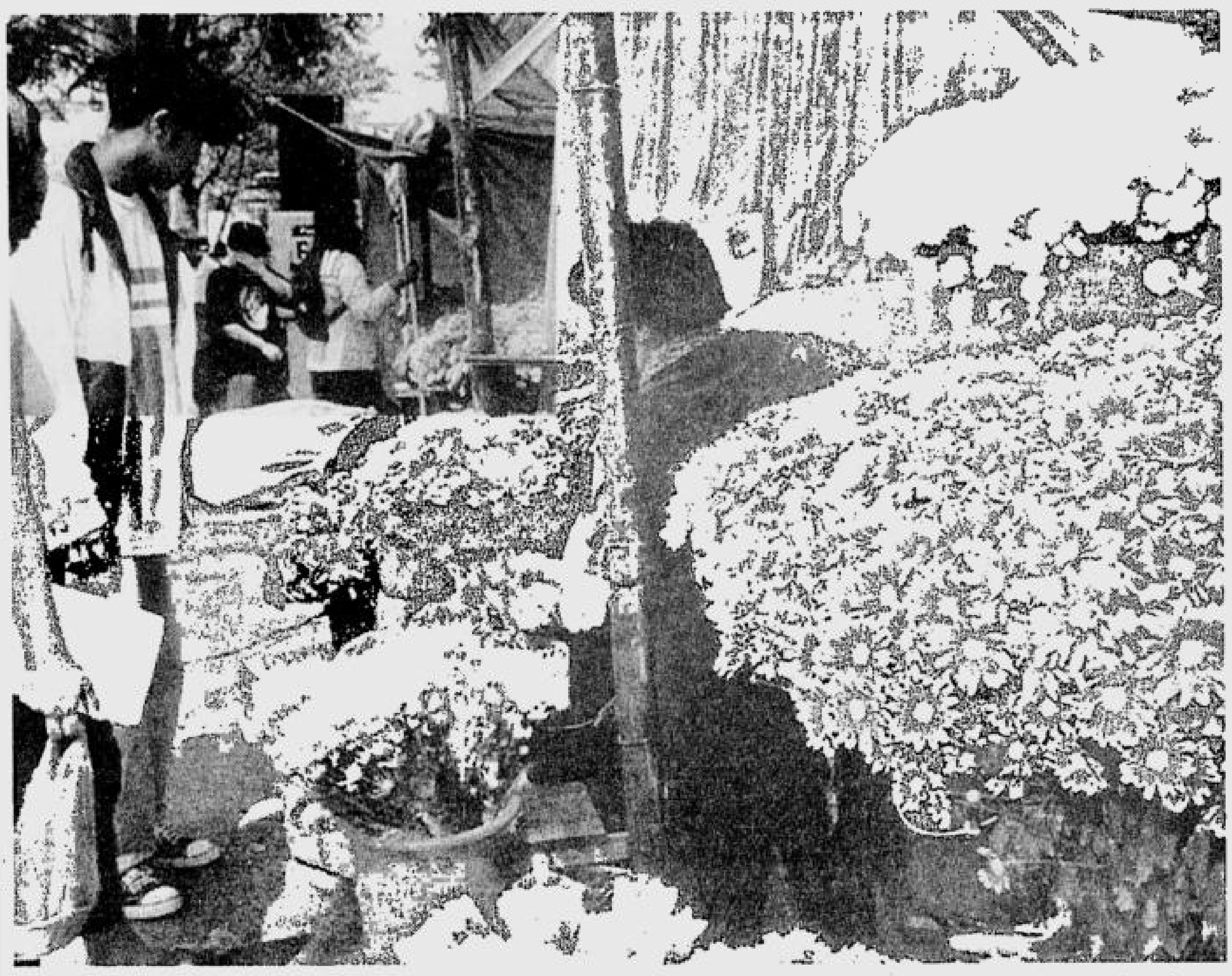
Nicdao said the whale has the natural instinct of seeking help when it is in distress.

"We have no recourse but to help the mammal swim back toward the deep sea where it belongs since we don't have capability in providing treatment, unlike in other countries," Nicdao said.

In deep sea, the whale's chance of survival is higher than in the beach, he said.

Dwarf sperm whales are considered endangered species. They are known to be harmless, not attacking humans even when provoked.

Nicdao said dwarf sperm whales are often sighted in the Davao Gulf.



THOUSANDS of flowers fetching up to P150 per dozen, three times their usual selling price, compete for attention along the sidewalks of Baguio's streets.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Few cemetery-goers in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Village guards helping policemen secure the old Roman Catholic memorial park, this city's biggest, observed a decline in the number of cemetery-goers on Friday, claiming this was due to anxiety over bomb threats.

Police officials, however, dispelled the observation.

"We have no empirical data yet. With the vigilance of the people and the political backlash to prospective bombers, that would be counter-productive," Senior Supt. Roberto Damian, director for operations of the Central Luzon police, said.

The "sentimentality of the event" to millions of Catholics in the region would also not cause them to sacrifice tradition, he said.

But vendors also noted fewer visitors on Friday morning.

"Usually by 10 a.m., the place is already full even during floods. We didn't have much people since 8 a.m.," observed Linda Santos, who maintains yearly a makeshift stall at the old cemetery.

"Perhaps, people are more cautious now," she said.

She expected, however, that more residents would troop to the cemetery on Friday night when the weather was cooler.

Alicia Nunag admitted she overcame her fear of possible bomb explosions to visit the tombs of her parents.

"I am confident that policemen are watchful of threats," she said.

Until 2 p.m., the police regional headquarters in Camp Olivas had not reported any untoward incident related to this year's observance of All Saints' Day anywhere in Central Luzon.

Provincial Administrator Benalfre Galang said this was the first time since 1997 that cemeteries in Pampanga were spared from floods because it had not rained hard in the province after August.

In Bacolor, Councilor Nilo Caballa said more residents living in eight resettlements all over the province have returned because the major roads leading to the town were rebuilt in time for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Bacolor residents were displaced after the town was buried by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar in 1995.

Families laid out a feast for the occasion at the cemetery behind the San Guillermo Church and at the municipal cemetery in Barangay Cabetican. These cemeteries were revived when Fr. Nestor Tayag served the parish.

"The days of the portable tombstones are almost over because we have put in place garden plots now (in the cemeteries)," Caballa said.

But in Cabalantian, Cabetican and several other villages where about 1,000 residents were buried alive by lahar, residents cleared fields covered by wild shrubs.

On the clean plots, Caballa said they planted wooden crosses on where they believed their relatives perished on Oct. 1, 1995, when 15-foot lahar flows spilled to Bacolor.

Farmers lose case in Leyte land dispute

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) in Eastern Visayas has ruled in favor of National Labor Relations Commissioner Vicente Veloso in the land dispute with a group of farmers.

In its six-page decision dated Oct. 9, the Darab dismissed the complaint filed by Alyansa Han Parag-uma ha Sab-A Basin (Alyansa) for lack of merit.

The Darab ruled that Veloso owns the 400-hectare property in San Miguel town, Leyte as the land is not within the special patent of the Leyte Sab-A Basin Development Authority (LSBDA).

"The complainants, its officers and members, are hereby enjoined from disturbing respondent Veloso's peaceful possession on Lots 4041 and 4045," the Darab said in a ruling signed by Felixberto Diloy, DAR regional adjudicator.

Records of the case showed that on March 25, the Alyansa filed a complaint before the Darab, seeking to reprocess the property, which the farmers claimed were taken by Veloso.

The group claimed that Veloso took over the 429.2074 ha of agricultural land in Barangay Guinciaman, some two kilometers away from the San Miguel town proper.

The farmers maintained that the property was covered by the LSBDA, which was created by a decree of then President Ferdinand Marcos that declared some barangays of Jaro, Alangalang, Palo, Babatngon, Sta. Fe and San Miguel towns and Tacloban City as agriculture lands.

Under a memorandum of agreement entered into by LSBDA and the Department of Agriculture on Nov. 16, 1976, farmers said the 429.2074 ha were awarded to the group's members under Certificate of Land Ownership Award No. 00018261.

In 1997, Veloso allegedly occupied the lot and demolished the houses of the beneficiaries. He also allegedly compelled the farmers to give a fourth of their total harvest of palay and a third of their coconut harvest as their rental.

Veloso reportedly fenced the whole area with barbed wires, making it difficult for the farmers to enter and leave the farm.

But the Darab said that based on their investigation, the contested property could not be owned by the farmers because the property was not part of the special patent entered into by the group with the LSBDA some 26 years ago.

The board also said the land claimed by the farmers was within the municipality of Palo, "which is adjacent to the municipality of Sta. Fe and the city of Tacloban."

"Being very far from San Miguel, Leyte where Veloso's Guinciaman farm is situated, it is indisputably clear that the 429.2074 ha sought by the Alyansa to be covered by relief from us, is not within the farm of respondent Veloso," it said.

"If at all, the party or parties that deserve such injunctive relief here are the respondents Veloso and his tenants," the Darab said.

The Darab pointed out that as early as Dec. 27, 1999, the DAR technical review committee had recognized the established and pre-existing private proprietary rights of Veloso.

Fertilizer plant up for sale

ILIGAN CITY—Tons of junk rusting at the Maria Cristina Fertilizer Corp.'s (MCFC) eight-hectare lot in Barangay Suarez caused heated arguments during a city council session due to disagreements in the "compromise tax agreement price of P4 million" as recommended by the City's Legal Office.

The city government took ownership of the MCFC equipment and buildings because its owners failed to pay property taxes for years totaling about P14 million.

Mayor Franklin Quijano told the INQUIRER that this P14 million assessment was done by assessors of previous administrations which the present administration contested. The figure was reduced to P4 million after the city government sued the MCFC to settle its delinquent property taxes. He added that in the theory of dominical rights, the MCFC has "not obliterated its right to ownership but it is unfair for the MCFC owners to sell the property."

Vice Mayor Lawrence Lluch Cruz for his part said that since the city owns the MCFC property, it can sell it through public auction. He said many firms showed interest in buying the MCFC property because "the price of scrap metal has gone up:"

He said that the City Council could not accept the P4 million compromise price because the MCFC property is worth more.

Councilor Alfredo Busico said offers to buy the property went up to as much as P6 million, adding "the city must make a gain" in case of a sale.

Busico revealed that a P6-million check has been deposited in the City Treasurer's Office as tax settlement by the owners of MCFC but this check was returned because the Treasurer's Office lacked "authorization from the City Council."

The MCFC was established as a companion fertilizer plant to the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Plant (MCHEP) in 1950 in line with the late President Elpidio Quirino's economic plan to harness the Lake Lanao-Agus river systems for electric power. The opening of the MCHEP and its companion fertilizer plant known locally as Marcelo after its owner attracted industrial companies to Iligan from 1953-1977 made Iligan a thriving industrial city. *Christine Godinez-Ortega and Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mayon danger area off limits to Albay villagers

LEGAZPI CITY—Authorities maintained the strict implementation of a "no man's land" policy especially in the declared six-kilometer radius permanent danger zone at the southeast sector of Mayon as the volcano remained on alert level 1.

Mountain climbing and trekking have also been prohibited by the Department of Tourism.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology have been recording more volcanic earthquakes after it raised alert level 1 on Thursday.

The quakes recorded have reached a total 87 low frequency volcanic earthquakes, five high frequency, 11 low frequency and five high frequency short-duration harmonic tremors.

Yesterday's Phivolcs monitoring also recorded sulfur dioxide emission of up to 3,722 tons per day since Thursday.

Resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said they also noted a slight deflation on the volcano's ground while seismic activity, which was recorded by their seismograph as weak to moderate in the previous week, has become moderate these past two days. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WELGA
RABBIT
WELGA
WELGA KAMI
RABBIT WELGA KAMI
WELGA KAMI-RABBIT

THE PICKET of striking workers of the Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines in Tarlac City was dispersed on Thursday, so the workers were confined to this fence on their third day of strike yesterday. They demand the reinstatement of their dismissed and suspended colleagues. RONALDO DIZON

Striking employees light candles in front of bus firm terminals

TARLAC CITY—The striking employees of the Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines (PRBL) said they would light candles in front of the firm's bus terminals in Luzon instead of visiting their dead relatives to pressure the firm's officials to give in to their demands.

This, as PRBL officials minimized their operations on Friday for "security reasons."

"We have received various reports that they (striking employees) might plan to throw stones at our buses. Our company is worried for the safety of our passengers and employees," Rivo Nisce, PRBL chief operating officer, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

The PRBL employees' strike entered its third day yesterday.

In a statement, the PRBL union said they were demanding the reinstatement of six union members and the implementation of their collective bargaining agreement.

Vidal Timbol, PRBL union secretary for education, claimed the company was "100-percent paralyzed."

PRBL officials, however, dismissed the striking employees' claim, saying the company's buses continued to ply their routes since Wednesday.

Nisce said the management was negotiating with the union before the strike.

"It's somewhat malicious on their part to have done this (strike) because up until last week we were still negotiating," Nisce said.

He also belied reports blaming the company's guards for the injuries sustained by the striking employees during a violent dispersal on Wednesday night.

"Those hurt might have been victims of their own group when they started throwing stones," Nisce said.

The union members said they are prepared for the long haul after the management refused to negotiate with them.

In an earlier interview, the company's president, Natividad Nisce, said their company is losing money and might retrench more workers.

A union official said they were willing to accept the retrenchment as long as they receive proper separation packages. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Union dispute, financial distress hound bus firm

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—After 57 years of operation, the Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines (PRBL), one of the country's oldest bus companies, is experiencing its worst.

Rivo Nisce, PRBL chief operating officer, said "company finances are not in good shape" and the PRBL is "now caught between an intra-union dispute as well as changing conditions in the transport sector caused by deregulation, competition and high cost of maintaining and operating an import-dependent service industry."

In a press conference on Thursday, Nisce said the company is in distress and has sought exemption before the Regional Tripartite Wage Board from implementing wage increases last February. This, he said, was approved and the company was granted reprieve for one year.

This is a fact known to the employees, Nisce said.

He added that the Department of Labor and Employment has just resolved an intra-union dispute thus a renegotiation for collective bargaining agreement (CBA) was not possible earlier.

On Wednesday, PRBL employees sealed off several terminals of the company including its main terminal here, which temporarily paralyzed its operations. The last known strike of PRBL workers was in 1986.

Along with their supporters from Bayan Muna and other militant groups, the striking PRBL employees were dispersed after they allegedly stopped a PRBL bus and pierced its tires. Buses were back on the streets on Thursday.

Nisce said the company filed a complaint against the striking employees on Wednesday before the National Labor Relations Commission for what he claimed was an "illegal strike."

He said the striking employees were not recognized as the legitimate representatives of the PRBL employees.

The striking employees were asking management for implementation of at least four wage orders, full implementation of benefits covered by their CBA and reinstatement of suspended or dismissed employees.

They also sought the renegotiation of their expired CBA and the recognition of what they claim as the decision of the majority members of the Philippine Rabbit Bus Employees Union (PRBEU) ousting their president, Jose Gonzales, and their secretary general, Elmer Sese, as union officers and members

A Sept. 10 decision of the DOLE, however, nullified and declared as illegal the removal of Gonzales and Sese as PRBEU president and secretary general, respectively.

Intra-union dispute

Major disagreements in handling workers issues caused the split among officers of the PRBEU.

This surfaced barely a year after the eight members of the union's executive board were elected.

The more militant officers wanted to file a complaint against the PRBL management for CBA violation before the National Conciliation and Mediation Board in Metro Manila, while the other officers insisted they should file it at the regional office.

Another cause of conflict was the disaffiliation of the PRBEU from the Nagkakaisang Lakas ng Manggagawa (NLM), a labor federation. This disaffiliation is under appeal by the NLM before the Bureau of Labor Relations.

The conflict deteriorated further when the militant faction accused Gonzales and Sese as "lackeys of management" and subsequently voted them out of their respective posts as well as membership in the union.

The two were removed based on a resolution allegedly passed by the general membership that accused them of neglect of duty, loss of trust and confidence and serious violation of the constitution and by-laws of the PRBEU.

Gonzales and Sese, however, disputed such claims when they filed a petition for nullification of their removal before the regional office of the DOLE.

In a 13-page decision, however, DOLE director Josefino Torres said the removal from office of the two was "illegal" as it violated the Labor Code, which mandates secret balloting among members of the organization in deciding a major policy that would affect the general membership.

Torres said no procedure was employed in the removal of the two from office and that "there is absolutely no evidence on record that the general membership was convened to tackle such an important decision."

Among other things, the decision also noted there were only 377 signatures to the resolution that sought to oust the two. The PRBEU allegedly has more than 1,000 members.

The striking workers, however, insisted that the two have been impeached and that management should recognize this as well as their new officers. This was contained in a demand letter they sent the PRBL management on Oct. 28, signed by Luisito Ibarra as grievance secretary.

The same letter also sought for "marathon negotiations."

ROUNDUP

Saudi envoy in Marawi

ILIGAN CITY—Saudi Ambassador for the Philippines Saleh Mohammad Al Ghamdi visited Marawi City on Wednesday for the recognition ceremony of a newly created center and inauguration of an educational program donated by the ambassador to the local government through the Mindanao State University. MSU-Marawi received a P2-million donation for the establishment of the King Faisal Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, the construction of which started a year ago. Ambassador Saleh said the three-story center, complete with facilities that include a function room and conference section, will enable many Muslim students to study Islam more deeply. The King Faisal Da Wah Center, also recently completed inside the campus, is aimed at providing educational facilities for many Muslim high school students. "With the project, the students will be able to take science and technology courses of the MSU system," Saleh said.

Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sued for graft

CANDABA, Pampanga—Mayor Normita Evangelista was sued on two graft cases, one of which involved the alleged purchase and non-delivery of at least P400,000 worth of National Food Authority rice intended for flood victims. Vice Mayor Daniel Gallardo and Councilors Joel San Jose and Jacinto Alabado filed the cases before the Office of Ombudsman for Luzon on Oct. 21. Evangelista, who is also facing two administrative cases, dismissed the cases as "politically motivated." She said all the allegations were "concocted" by politicians whom she defeated in the last elections.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Vice mayor in trouble

BENITO SOLIVEN, Isabela—Barangay officials here convened a preparatory recall assembly to unseat Vice Mayor Ernesto Abu, citing loss of confidence in his leadership. At least 180 barangay chairmen and councilors and Sangguniang Kabataan officials approved the recall petition against Abu, citing his supposed obstruction of the development of the town when he opposed a resolution for a P15-million development project. Abu was also accused of graft. Abu claimed that Mayor Raymunda Domingo and her husband, former Mayor Marcelino Domingo, had been pushing for his recall because of a "hidden political agenda. The Domingos denied involvement in the preparatory recall assembly.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ex-PMA cadet nabbed

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A discharged Philippine Military Academy cadet was arrested by policemen when he tried to encash a fake check supposedly issued by the PMA here on Oct. 9. Alfredo Regidor, 21, of Davao City, was about to encash a Philippine National Bank check worth P17,500 issued to one Efraim Lopez at a department store here when police arrested him. Police said Regidor presented an identification card bearing Lopez's name with the latter's picture on it. Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, confirmed that Regidor was listed as a cadet but had been discharged from the academy in 2000. Maj. Eugenio Metrio, PMA's tactical group treasurer, denied he issued the check when an employee of the department store verified it.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Police, Army have incompatible communications equipment

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A top military official in Negros Oriental has blamed incompatibility between the communications equipment of the police and the army for the poor coordination between the two law enforcement agencies in the fight against insurgency.

Lieutenant Col. Rolando Picar, commanding officer of the 66th Infantry Battalion based in Guihulngan town, said the communications equipment they use in the field does not work well with the equipment of the policemen who use mostly Very High Frequency radios.

He told the Negros Oriental Provincial Peace and Order Conference (PPOC) on Wednesday that the poor coordination between the Army and the police resulted in the Aug. 27 incident in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan, which claimed the lives of three police officers.

Picar, however, declined to say if the incident was a mis-encounter when asked by Raphael Lozada, Department of Interior and Local Government provincial director.

Senior Insp. Ramil Viscaya, Guihulngan police chief, and his men, SPO4 Modesto Lagusad and SPO4 Jaime Provechado, were killed after they were allegedly shot by troops from the 66th IB, who reportedly mistook them for New People's Army rebels.

The policemen and the Army soldiers were responding to an earlier ambuscade by NPA guerrillas in the same barangay, which killed Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, police chief in nearby Vallehermoso town and his driver SPO3 Cipriano Saludes.

Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, then acting police director in Central Visayas, said Viscaya was supposed to wait for the troops from the 66th IB based in Barangay McKinley in Guihulngan before they moved out to the ambush site in Barangay Basak. But Viscaya decided to pull out of the police station without waiting for the Army.

To ensure a more effective coordination between the two agencies, the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas instituted a policy, stating that all armed persons in an area who are not policemen should be considered enemies in the absence of prior coordination.

In the PPOC meeting, Bais City Mayor Hector Villanueva suggested the use of the local government's calamity fund to acquire better communications equipment for the soldiers to fight insurgents.

He said an executive order was recently issued, allowing mayors and governors to use their calamity funds for an actual calamity or security problem.

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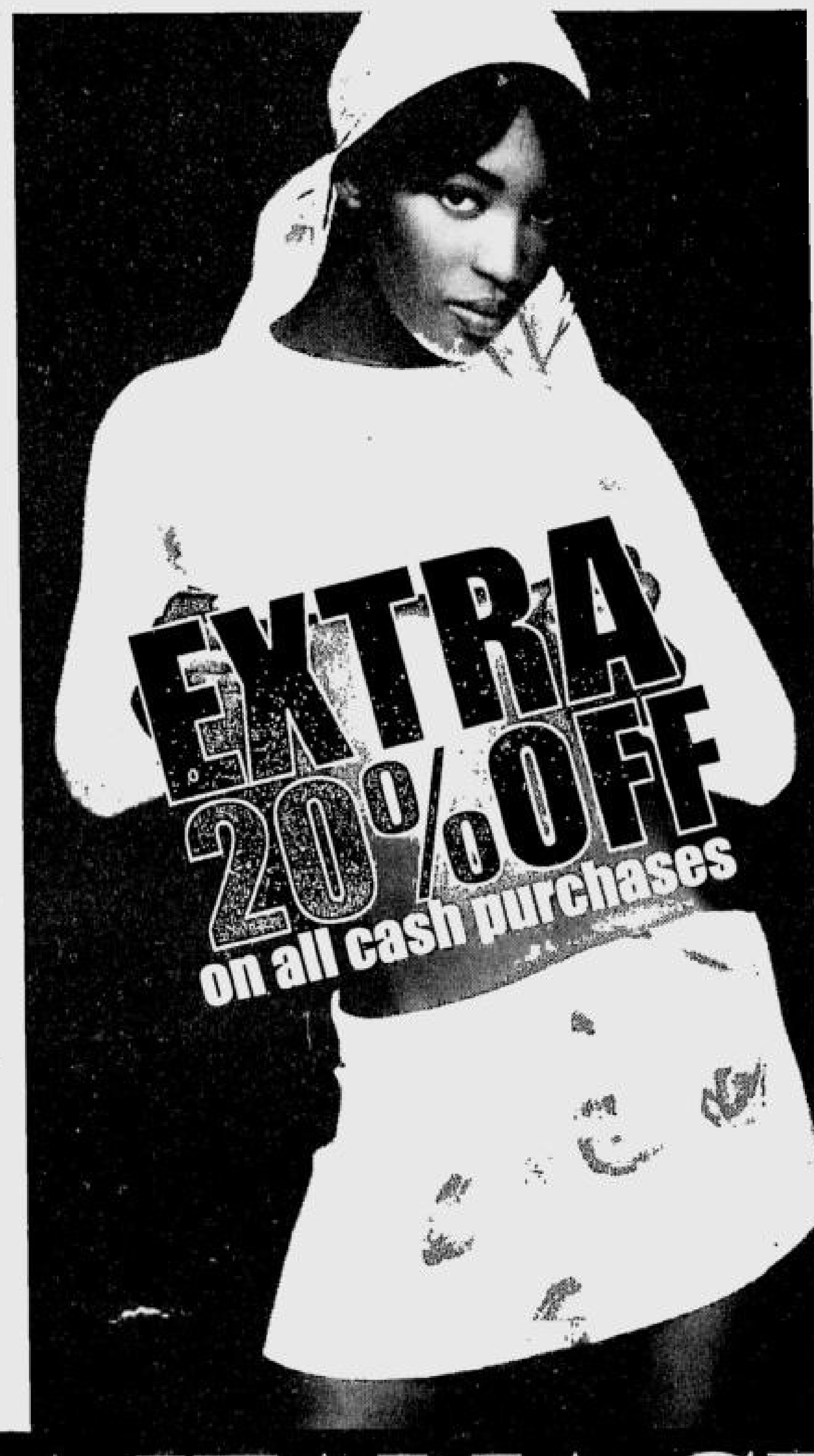

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*SM Cebu (6332) 232-1499

PRIMA LINEA
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*Greenbelt Mall 819-59-17
*SM Megamall 633-2070/72
*Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5517

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MEGA SALE

Real Properties Absolutely Forfeited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue

December 2 and December 17

INVITATION TO BID

Under the authority in Section 207 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), the properties described below have been absolutely forfeited for non-payment of internal revenue taxes due from taxpayers. The properties will be sold at Public Auction Sale, as provided for under Section 216 of the NIRC and related regulations.

All properties listed herewith are owned and titled under the name of the Republic of the Philippines.

RR 1 – CALASIAO, PANGASINAN

Residential

001 Place : Dagupan City
Area : 200 sqm
Floor Price : P 60,000.00

Pasture Land

002 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

003 Place : Bayambang
Area : 274 sqm
Floor Price : P8,220.00

004 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

005 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

006 Place : Bayambang
Area : 462 sqm
Floor Price : P13,830.00

007 Place : Bayambang
Area : 532 sqm
Floor Price : P15,780.00

RR 5 – VALENZUELA

Residential

008 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P194,240.00

009 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 135 sqm
Floor Price : P43,200.00

010 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P194,240.00

011 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 550 sqm
Floor Price : P176,000.00

012 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

013 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 666 sqm
Floor Price : P213,120.00

014 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 583 sqm
Floor Price : P186,560.00

015 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

016 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

017 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 550 sqm
Floor Price : P176,000.00

018 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,0000.00

019 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

020 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 576 sqm
Floor Price : P184,960.00

021 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 683 sqm
Floor Price : P218,560.00

022 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 867 sqm
Floor Price : P277,440.00

023 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 665 sqm
Floor Price : P212,800.00

024 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 612 sqm
Floor Price : P195,840.00

025 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 582 sqm
Floor Price : P186,240.00

026 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 541 sqm
Floor Price : P173,120.00

027 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 642 sqm
Floor Price : P205,440.00

028 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 718 sqm
Floor Price : P229,760.00

029 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 640 sqm
Floor Price : P204,800.00

030 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 708 sqm
Floor Price : P226,560.00

031 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 687 sqm
Floor Price : P219,840.00

032 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 655 sqm
Floor Price : P209,600.00

033 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 554 sqm
Floor Price : P177,280.00

034 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 104 sqm
Floor Price : P33,280.00

035 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

036 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

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Area : 500 sqm
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Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

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Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

040 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

041 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 501 sqm
Floor Price : P160,320.00

042 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 513 sqm
Floor Price : P164,160.00

043 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

044 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

045 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

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Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

047 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

048 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

049 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 506 sqm
Floor Price : P161,920.00

050 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 627 sqm
Floor Price : P206,640.00

051 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 320 sqm
Floor Price : P102,400.00

052 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 130 sqm
Floor Price : P41,600.00

053 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 19,182 sqm
Floor Price : P6,138,240.00

054 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 164 sqm
Floor Price : P52,480.00

055 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 726 sqm
Floor Price : P232,320.00

056 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 731 sqm
Floor Price : P233,920.00

057 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 735 sqm
Floor Price : P235,200.00

058 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 735 sqm
Floor Price : P235,200.00

059 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 822 sqm
Floor Price : P263,040.00

060 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 808 sqm
Floor Price : P258,560.00

061 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

062 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

063 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

064 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 798 sqm
Floor Price : P255,360.00

065 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 860 sqm
Floor Price : P275,200.00

066 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 1,042 sqm
Floor Price : P333,440.00

067 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 650 sqm
Floor Price : P208,000.00

068 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 687 sqm
Floor Price : P219,840.00

069 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 778 sqm
Floor Price : P248,960.00

070 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 728 sqm
Floor Price : P232,960.00

071 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 512 sqm
Floor Price : P163,840.00

072 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 492 sqm
Floor Price : P157,440.00

073 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

074 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

075 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 515 sqm
Floor Price : P164,800.00

076 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 557 sqm
Floor Price : P178,240.00

077 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Buacan
Area : 571 sqm
Floor Price : P182,720.00

078 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 895 sqm
Floor Price : P286,400.00

079 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 538 sqm
Floor Price : P172,160.00

080 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 725 sqm
Floor Price : P232,000.00

081 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 436 sqm
Floor Price : P139,520.00

082 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 616 sqm
Floor Price : P197,120.00

083 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 587 sqm
Floor Price : P187,840.00

084 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

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Area : 742 sqm
Floor Price : P237,440.00

085 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

086 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

087 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

088 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 537 sqm
Floor Price : P171,840.00

089 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 534 sqm
Floor Price : P170,880.00

090 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 375 sqm
Floor Price : P120,000.00

091 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 444 sqm
Floor Price : P142,080.00

092 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 521 sqm
Floor Price : P166,720.00

093 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 566 sqm
Floor Price : P181,120.00

094 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

095 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

096 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price: P171,200.00

097 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

098 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

099 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

100 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

101 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

102 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 559 sqm
Floor Price : P178,880.00

103 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 421 sqm
Floor Price : P134,720.00

104 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

105 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

106 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

107 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

108 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 843 sqm
Floor Price : P269,760.00

109 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 755 sqm
Floor Price : P241,600.00

110 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 754 sqm
Floor Price : P241,280.00

111 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 763 sqm
Floor Price : P244,160.00

112 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 861 sqm
Floor Price : P275,520.00

113 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

114 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

115 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 504 sqm
Floor Price : P161,280.00

116 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 574 sqm
Floor Price : P183,680.00

117 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 648 sqm
Floor Price : P207,360.00

118 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 673 sqm
Floor Price : P215,360.00

119 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 680 sqm
Floor Price : P217,600.00

120 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 718 sqm
Floor Price : P229,760.00

121 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 895 sqm
Floor Price : P286,400.00

122 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 756 sqm
Floor Price : P241,920.00

123 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 483 sqm
Floor Price : P154,560.00

124 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 483 sqm
Floor Price : P154,560.00

125 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 570 sqm
Floor Price : P182,400.00

126 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 835 sqm
Floor Price : P267,200.00

127 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 484 sqm
Floor Price : P154,880.00

128 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 451 sqm
Floor Price : P144,320.00

129 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

RR 8 – MAKATI CITY

Residential

130 Place : Pateros
Area : 546 sqm
Floor Price : 1,801,800.00

131 Place : Pateros
Area : 177 sqm
Floor Price : P584,000.00

132 Place : Pateros
Area : 384 sqm
Floor Price: P1,267,200.00

RR 9 – SAN PABLO CITY

Agricultural

133 Place : Gumaca
Area : 1.39 hectares
Floor Price : P70,000.00

Residential

134 Place : Calauan
Area : 351,950 sqm
Floor Price : P369,547.50

RR 10 – LEGASPI CITY

Agricultural

135 Place : Daet, Camarines Norte
Area : 11,889 sqm
Floor Price : P53,550.00

136 Place : Brgy. Nabasagon, Bonbon, Milagros
Area : 14 hectares
Floor Price : P20,120.00

137 Place : Nabasagon, Bonbon, Milagros
Area : 78 hectares
Floor Price : P46,000.00

Residential

138 Place : Sorsogon, Sorsogon
Area : 400 sqm
Floor Price : P36,000.00

RR 12 – BACOLOD CITY

Residential

139 Place : Brgy Cabahug, Cadiz City
Area : 1,000 sqm
Floor Price: P450,000.00

140 Place : Brgy. Daga, Cadiz City
Area : 20,000 sqm
Floor Price: P5,000,000.00

141 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 441 sqm
Floor Price : P308,700.00

142 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 597 sqm
Floor Price : P417,900.00

143 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 460 sqm
Floor Price : P322,000.00

144 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 645 sqm
Floor Price : P451,500.00

145 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 623 sqm
Floor Price : P436,100.00

146 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 562 sqm
Floor Price : P393,400.00

147 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 549 sqm
Floor Price : P384,300.00

148 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P424,900.00

149 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 391 sqm
Floor Price : P273,700.00

150 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 1,365 sqm
Floor Price: P1,092,000.00

151 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

152 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

153 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

154 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 317 sqm
Floor Price : P253,600.00

155 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 523 sqm
Floor Price: P1,307,500.00

156 Place : Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 575 sqm
Floor Price: P1,437,500.00

157 Place : Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 627 sqm
Floor Price: P1,567,500.00

158 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 693 sqm
Floor Price: 1,732,500.00

159 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 710 sqm
Floor Price: P1,775,000.00

160 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 725 sqm
Floor Price: P1,812,500.00

161 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 714 sqm
Floor Price: P1,785,000.00

162 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 546 sqm
Floor Price: P1,365,000.00

163 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 464 sqm
Floor Price: P1,160,000.00

164 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 464 sqm
Floor Price: P1,160,000.00

165 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 874 sqm
Floor Price: P2,185,000.00

166 Place: Punta Taytay, Bacolod City
Area : 8,121 sqm
Floor Price: P5,278,650.00

167 Place : Granada
Area : 28,088 sqm
Floor Price:P19,661,600.00

RR 14 – TACLOBAN CITY

Residential

168 Place : Brgy. 63, Sagkahan Dist., Tacloban City
Area : 203 sqm
Floor Price : P91,350.00

169 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 220 sqm
Floor Price : P572,000.00

170 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 227 sqm
Floor Price : P590,000.00

171 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 221 sqm
Floor Price : P574,000.00

172 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 221 sqm
Floor Price : P574,000.00

173 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 271 sqm
Floor Price :P704,600.00

174 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 238 sqm
Floor Price : P618,800.00

175 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 227 sqm
Floor Price : P590,200.00

176 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 134.34 sqm
Floor Price : P349,284.00

177 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 234 sqm
Floor Price : P608,400.00

178 Place : Brgy. 51,Tacloban City
Area : 199 sqm
Floor Price : P517,400.00

Agricultural

179 Place : Babatngon
Area : 1.2960 hectares
Floor Price : P96,000.00

180 Place : Babatngon
Area : 7.1680 hectares
Floor Price : P568,000.00

181 Place : Babatngon
Area : 60,896 sqm
Floor Price : P487,168.00

RR 17 – BUTUAN CITY

Residential

182 Place : Brgy. 5, Pob. San Francisco, Agusan Sur
Area : 600 sqm
Floor Price : P210,000.00

183 Place : Bo. Sabang, Surigao City
Area : 478 sqm
Floor Price : P19,080.00

Industrial

184 Place : Bo. Dialagon, Liangu, Surigao del Sur
Area : 253.971 sqm
Floor Price :P2,793,680.00

RR 19 – DAVAO CITY

Residential

185 Place : Tagum, Davao del Norte
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P45,000.00

186 Place : Apokon, Tagum
Area : 1,000 sqm
Floor Price : P275,000.00

187 Place : Monkayo, Davao
Area : 783 sqm
Floor Price : P117,450.00

Agricultural

188 Place : Busaon, Davao
Area : 46,689 sqm
Floor Price : P387,518.70

APPLICATION TO BID

1. Any person, not otherwise disqualified by law may file and participate in Sealed Bids.
2. All Sealed Bids application shall be submitted and received through the Regional Office Task Force (ROTF) of Revenue Region where the property is located.
3. No bid for any land, improvements or any portion thereof advertised for sale shall be considered, unless it is accompanied by a deposit either in cash, manager's check or surety bond payable to BIR in the amount equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price as determined by ROTF. The 10% shall form part of the purchase price of the winning bidder.

DATE AND VENUE

Bidding will be held at the respective BIR Regional Offices where the properties for sale are located on December 2. Another bidding will be held on December 17 for all the properties not sold during the regional bidding at the the National Training Center (NTC), BIR National Office Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City.

Site of Regional Bidding

1. RR1-Calasiao, Pangasinan
2nd floor, BIR Bldg., Mc Arthur Hi-way, Calasiao, Pangasinan

2. RR5-Valenzuela City
385 JRC Bldg. MacArthur Highway, Malinta, Valenzuela City

3. RR8-Makati City
5th Flr. Atrium Bldg. Makati Ave., Makati City

4. RR9-San Pablo City
Go Shin Tang Bldg., Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City

5. RR10-Legazpi City
BIR Bldg., Camia St. Imperial Court Subd., Legazpi City

6. RR12-Bacolod City
4th Floor, PNB Bldg., Lacson St. Bacolod City, Negros Occ.

7. RR14-Tacloban City
BIR Bldg., Government Center, Candahug Palo, Leyte

9. RR17-Butuan City
BIR Bldg., J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City

9. RR19-Davao City
2nd & 3rd Flrs Kaunlaran Bldg., San Pedro St., Davao City

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw properties from the sale.

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Hot spot in the heart of the Visayas

By Hazel P. Villa
Miagao, Iloilo

THE RACE is on to save the over-exploited Visayan Sea and stakeholders from 22 towns in four provinces in the Visayas are applying the "participatory and community-based approaches" to conservation and sustainable development, with funding from the German government.

Formerly called the "Alaska of the Philippines" because of the abundance of fish and other marine life in its waters, the Visayan Sea used to rank first in the country's total production of commercial fisheries and municipal fisheries. Now, it has dropped to second.

It is exactly this marine wealth, central location and accessibility that have attracted objectionable activities in its waters, causing the decline of the Visayan Sea's productivity in the 1990s. The waters off southern Palawan have replaced it in terms of marine productivity.

Exploitation of marine resources in the Visayan Sea is threatening the fisheries industries in the southern towns of Masbate, northern towns of Cebu, northeastern towns of Iloilo, and the northern towns of Negros Occidental that are directly facing the Visayan Sea.

The worsening situation has been felt over the last decade.

Possible moves to address the problem came to light when Nygiel Armada, associate professor of the Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanology in University of the Philippines-Visayas in Miagao, Iloilo, presented a study on the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon on small pelagic species of the Visayan Sea to the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD).

Armada presented data showing the decline of fish catch in 1997-98. Pelagic species are fishes and other marine life that live on or near the surface of the ocean.

"We further realized the bad state of the Visayan Sea through dialogues with the older fishermen around the area. Other anecdotal records showed how they got much from the wealth of the sea before and now they are lamenting its bad state," said Armada, a marine fisheries graduate of the UP-Diliman who took up his Master of Science in Biology at the Hamburg University in Germany.

Together with a German research fellow, Armada was able to present the proposal to save the Visayan Sea to the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit or the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, commonly known in development circles as GTZ.

Pilot concept

Established in 1975, the GTZ is a service organization for development cooperation that operates worldwide. Funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, the GTZ works as a private sector enterprise with a development orientation.

It seeks "to help improve the living standards of and prospects for people in partner countries, and conserve the natural resource base on which life depends."

Before the GTZ could approve the proposal, the plan had to go through a series of discussions with the German side, initially saying it wanted the "pilot concept" pursued in pilot areas where successes are replicated in other places.

Masbate
Samar
Visayan Sea
Panay
Leyte
Negros
Cebu

THE RACE is on to save the over-fished Visayan Sea.

The Philippine side wanted emphasis on research and an integrated management of the Visayan Sea.

"The pilot concept just points to pilot areas and does not help fix the problem as a whole. What we need for fishery resources management is an integrated approach since our major resource, the fish, is very mobile and cannot just be managed in the pilot areas," said Armada, an Ilonggo who speaks German.

"What if the pilot area is not successful? Even if it succeeds, it still doesn't mean that the success can be applied in other areas. Do other communities have to suffer for another's failure?" he added.

A deal between the two countries was struck: the stakeholders will have a substantial say on the project to save the Visayan Sea but they have first to undergo the German process of dialogues and consultations called the "goal-oriented project planning," commonly known as the ZOPP.

Fishermen, community leaders and government executives from Cebu, Iloilo, Negros and Masbate had three ZOPP sessions on different levels in 2000. Their inputs were the basis for the project planning matrix and the revision of the Philippine proposal.

Cooperation

Among the key issues and concerns were resource depletion, habitat degradation and "unsustainable resource use patterns and resource use conflicts."

The stakeholders of the provinces were allowed to embrace the Visayan Sea and jointly manage the marine resources to increase productivity.

"The process was overhauled, but the components of the participatory approach and community-based or 'bottoms-up' approach were basically the same," said Armada, adding that both parties focused on the stakeholders' participation.

After the ZOPP sessions, both countries were satisfied with the proposal that was approved for funding by Germany in 2001.

By June, the Visayan Sea Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Project, with funding from the GTZ, was formally launched in Iloilo City. The German government allocated six million deutschemarks or about P100 million, while the Philippine government earmarked P5 million for the livelihood projects.

Consultation with stakeholders and coastal communities to participate in conserving the remaining resources of the Visayan Sea has started. Typical of development projects, many agreed with the development work but many were also skeptical about the integrated approach.

"People were 'territorial,' but we explained that the fish in the Visayan Sea moves around and thus, we may ban fishing in Masbate where certain fish spawn and yet others may allow them to be fished in their areas. That is why the pilot approach does not work, but integrated management does," said Armada, who handled the fisheries component of the Asean-USAID's first coastal resource management project in Lingayen Gulf from 1987 to 1988.

Synchronized efforts

Integrated management calls for synchronization in development efforts. That way, the integrated approach would not be a deterrent to others. Armada said other areas could push through their initiatives and not wait for those lagging behind.

"Those lagging behind will benefit from the trickling successes of others," said Armada. This involves the participation of all local government units affected by the Visayan Sea.

Since June, after the project was formally launched, the towns in northern Cebu and southern Masbate have yet to group themselves into associations that can plan and implement policies related to over-fishing, livelihood and other components of the Visayan Sea Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Project

The Visayan Sea Project does not want to make the wasteful mistake of resource management wherein a project lasts for a year after its organizers have left it to the hands of the stakeholders, who later revert to the same old practices the organization thought it had stamped out.

"The only way we can stop over-fishing is to provide supplemental livelihood for fishermen because there is no alternative for fishermen but to fish," said Armada.

Pilot projects

As of January, the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD) identified four pilot projects for the implementation of alternative livelihood for the fishermen with a budget of P912,000.

Balasan town in Iloilo has a *tilapia* hatchery project, while Bantayan town in Cebu and in Cadiz City in Negros Occidental have seaweed culture. Balud town in Masbate will engage in the cage culture of groupers.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Western Visayas will implement the projects, while PCAMRD will monitor it. The Germans' role is to check the implementation of the Visayan Sea Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Project.

"When the Germans talk, they say, 'It's your project, not ours,'" said Armada, adding that the German government will have two experts assigned to the project.

The Visayan Sea Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Project is a six-year project with possible extensions if proven to be effective.

"This is going to be a long and tedious process, but the initiative is there," said Armada.

Bungled

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

THE WAY they breezed through the Cherry Augusto murder case, you would think Lapu-Lapu City's finest were chasing after the world record time for crime mystery solved.

The crime wasn't solved and the only thing mysterious was how the officers came up with their "finding"—arrived at after the echo of the gunshots that were heard that afternoon of Oct. 3 had barely subsided.

It was gut feeling at its best: Cherry was shot by an "ardent suitor," a policeman, who then committed suicide. A crime of passion motivated by jealousy. Sounded good. Case closed.

Forgetting they were trained to be skeptics, some members of the media actually beat police to that conclusion. A headline of a local daily screamed: "Cop shoots Cherry in head, kill self."

"A married policeman yesterday shot 24-year-old Cherry Augusto in the head, then killed himself using the same handgun . . ."

With no attribution, the story made it appear as if some reporters were right there in the Sabanal Apartment in Lapu-Lapu when it all happened, taking notes of all the gory, bloody details as they unfolded.

Then came a "confirmation" of the "love affair" of Cherry and Dulguime even if there was none. The story itself talked only about a persistent "suitor."

Now investigators and editors alike are squirming on their seats, fervently praying that results of a reinvestigation ordered by police regional director Rolando Garcia will bear them out.

The sleuths face administrative lapses for bungling their work; the latter, a much more severe penalty, public embarrassment for an erroneous banner that could no longer be erased.

They may still be proven right, and in that case, go on to boast: "You see, we guessed right!" They made, after all, an excellent guess.

Elsewhere, investigators leave nothing to chance, relying on forensics to close out even the most perplexing and complex crime mysteries. Lapu-Lapu policemen rely on speculations and intrigue.

They conveniently forgot that at least two characters had a motive to see Cherry dead—an official whose career had been put on the line and a philanderer who wanted out of his marital obligations.

They accepted only evidence and testimony that would support their "homicide-suicide theory" and ignored the more telling ones.

There was witness Noraden Ruiz, Cherry's helper who was with her shortly before the attack. She demonstrated how she saw Dulguime react after the first two shots had been fired. He had two hands firmly clasping his gun, his alert eyes darting up as if he was set to run after someone.

Then as she ran to seek help, Ruiz said she heard the third gunshot, followed—after an interval—by another.

What was surprising was the possibility of a cover-up: Ruiz said two items in her affidavit were allegedly falsified by a homicide investigator, who then rushed her into signing even if she wanted more time to review the contents.

Another policemen, meanwhile, admitted taking the SIM card from Dulguime's cellular phone and returned the card, without the phone, to the dead officer's family.

Then came a National Bureau of Investigation-Caraga finding that Cherry's killer could have used a .45 cal. pistol instead of the alleged murder weapon, Dulguime's .38 cal. revolver.

Where was the real killer, if there was one?

He could have been in any one of the more than a dozen rooms in the apartment, none of which was checked by the Lapu-Lapu police. He could have been a transient renter, just waiting for the right time to strike. He could have shot both Cherry and Dulguime, then made a clean get-away through an escape route at the back of the apartment.

There was no way he could have been seen by witnesses, an Air Force sergeant and his buddies who had been drinking for hours in front of the apartment.

Nobody could prove there was another gunman? Who could prove there was none?

Business leaders remain upbeat amid economy's 'trying times'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Boracay Island, Aklan

BUCKING security threats from here and abroad, business leaders have remained confident in the resiliency of the economy and the sturdiness of the private sector to weather the "trying times."

"It's business as usual," Sergio Luis Jr., national president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said.

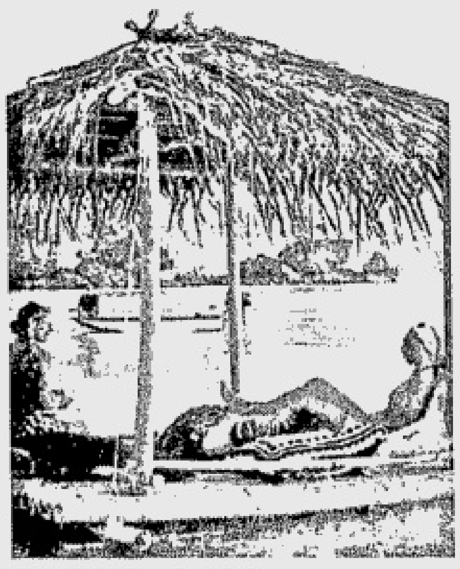
Businessmen have already "factored out" the events, including the bombings and other terrorist threats, he said. "If you let these things bother you, you will be paralyzed," he said. "Barring any major catastrophe, our recovery will be continuous."

Luis was keynote speaker of the two-day Visayas Area Business Conference held in Boracay, which culminated on Oct. 26. About 200 business leaders, mostly from small and medium enterprises (SMEs), attended the meeting, which covered the theme "Strategic Development of SMEs: Key to a Strong and Dynamic Philippine Economy."

Joji Ilagan-Bian, chairperson of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), said confidence among local businessmen had remained strong despite the threats. The MBC is an umbrella of chambers of commerce and various business organizations in Mindanao.

Bian said there had been no pull-out of investments in the region. "As long as our plantations are safe, we will meet our export targets and register growth," she said.

Even before the rush of kidnappings and bombings in some areas in Mindanao, local investment has propelled the economy of the region, Bian said. This is shown by the higher gross domestic product (GDP), or the sum of all products and services produced in the region compared to the national average, she said.



FOREIGN tourists in Boracay. PDI PHOTO

Tourism hardest hit

But Bian admitted that the tourism in the regions was the hardest hit by the kidnappings and bombings. "These reinforce the perception of many that the entire Mindanao is not a safe place," she added.

She stressed that the incidents happened only in certain areas like Western Mindanao. "It is not fair to include other cities, which rate very high in investment, like Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos."

Luis said the threats "tend to be exaggerated," blaming the media for "keeping on repeating and repeating (the reports of bombings) as if it's happening in the whole country . . . daily."

He said the bomb threats were less of a concern to businessmen than kidnapping.

Roberto Montelibano, PCCI vice president for the Visayas, said the business community was "always optimistic" despite the threats.

He said multisectoral initiatives to address threats should be widened and encouraged to ensure the cooperation of the private sector and community to the efforts of the police and the military.

Difficult times

But in his speech before around 200 delegates of the tightly secured conference at the Casa Pilar Resort, Luis admitted that the business community faced "difficult times."

He said the global repercussion of the recent terrorist attacks in various parts of the world and the growing threat of war in Iraq had made political developments the main determinant of economic outlook.

Except in World War II, "never has there been a time that the domestic economy held hostage to external developments than today," he said.

Since the problems have crossed over borders, he said, they had no choice but to address the concerns on a regional basis through regional formations like Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

He urged the business sector to "develop a new sense of responsibility in these trying times."

Luis said the businessmen's advocacy should go beyond economic policies and globalization. "Threats do not only come from terrorism but also from social and economic inequalities."

Private sector

He urged the private sector to implement social projects because "there is a volcano . . . waiting to explode and businesses will be the ones to be first hit." He sought closer cooperation between government and the private sector in confronting the threats.

"The times require that government should neither attempt to solve problems for people nor leave them alone to fend for themselves," he said. "Instead, the government should provide people the tools to solve their own problems."

Luis said they were generally satisfied with government measures to confront the security threats, especially against kidnapping. But he said the government was failing to invest in promoting the country's image battered by reports of kidnappings and bombings.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Joma: War to get fiercer

From page A1

tensified armed conflict in the Philippines. "The campaign to demonize the revolutionary forces can only unite the people to wage a fiercer armed revolution against the armed counter-revolution," he said.

He also said there was "no reason" for the revolutionary movement that was not cowed by the "US-directed Marcos fascist dictatorship" and the US military bases in the Philippines to be "frightened by US imperialism and a puppet regime that are in the throes of the worst economic and social crisis since the end of World War II."

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced on Thursday that the blacklisting of Sison and the NPA would force the communist-led National Democratic Front to resume peace talks with the Philippine government.

But Sison, who serves as the NDF's chief political consultant, said the blacklisting could result in the scuttling of the peace talks that the Philippine government suspended last year.

"It is no longer advisable to hold these negotiations in Europe where organizations and individuals belonging to or associated with the NDF in one way or another are vulnerable to being condemned and treated as terrorists," he said.

"The NDF cannot allow the members of its negotiating panel, its consultants, staff members and supporters in Europe to be put under duress," he added.

'Absurd'

Sison described his blacklisting as "completely absurd."

"I am simply an unemployed teacher, prevented by the Dutch government from working for more than 14 years already," he said.

"It is wrong to make me appear as if I were more powerful than such organs of leadership as the Central Committee of the CPP, the national military staff of the NPA and the National Council of the NDF, which are all in the Philippines."

Sison also described as "unjust" the inclusion of the NPA in the EU terrorist list.

"(The NPA) is a disciplined revolutionary army led by the CPP," he pointed out. "It is the instrument of the Filipino people in fighting for national liberation and democracy."

The US state department listed the CPP-NPA as a "foreign terrorist organization" in August.

According to Sison, the US government and the Macapagal administration were "hell-bent on destroying the people's revolutionary movement by sheer military force under the pretext of carrying out a war on terrorism."

"The people and the revolutionary forces have no choice but to defend themselves and defeat their oppressors and exploiters in order to bring about national liberation and democracy," he said.

The EU earlier said it blacklisted Sison in response to calls by the Philippine government to include the CPP-NPA on its list of "terrorist groups."

But in Utrecht, Reuters quoted Sison as saying he would challenge his blacklisting at the European Court of Human Rights, and that he and his comrades would not be forced into accepting the Philippine government's peace terms. *With a report from Reuters*

Tiglao offers to talk with CPP leaders here

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson believes he can convince his ex-comrades in the rebel movement to renounce armed struggle.

Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday offered to meet with Benito and Wilma Tiamzon who, he said, were running the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army from a base in the country.

Tiglao said he and the Tiamzons were political detainees during the Marcos regime, and that "if they are willing, we can talk."

Tiglao, who reportedly headed the CPP regional committee in Metro Manila, was arrested in 1973. He was released four years later.

His offer to serve as peace negotiator was apparently meant to isolate CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison and the other Netherlands-based leaders of the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP-NPA.

He said he was making the offer because the Macapagal administration was bent on "convincing the rebels to renounce violence for political ends."

"I believe that I can convince (the Tiamzons) that killing our fellow Filipinos is not the solution to the problems of the masses," Tiglao said, adding:

"Benny is getting old and I heard that Wilma is sick. *Naaawa naman ako* (I pity them)."

If Tiglao had concern for the Tiamzons, he only had contempt for Sison.

"Sison should have some mercy," Tiglao said. "While he's living a comfortable life in the Netherlands, our people are suffering because of his dream to (mold) the Philippines after the image of Mao Zedong."

Tiglao said Sison should follow the example set by former NDF peace negotiator Satur Ocampo, who "is now waging a peaceful struggle (as a party- list representative) in Congress."

He expressed sarcasm toward NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni, whom he described as "also a former friend of mine and now a Dutch citizen."

EU declaration sets back peace process—Guingona

From page A1

communists."

"It should serve as a signal for them to reexamine and renounce armed struggle and the use of violence that has caused misery and loss of lives," he said at an impromptu press conference.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, said the EU decision was "a good development" in that the insurgents would be prevented from receiving financial support from other countries.

Ebdane warned, however, that the blacklisting would not stop the rebels from fighting. "Remember that in any revolutionary movement, it's not the numbers or strength that is important, but the objective, the strategy. But sooner or later, our community will realize that they are being shortchanged by these people," he said.

Still, Ebdane said the rebels should resume negotiating peace: "If their issues are valid, I think there's nothing wrong in talking."

But Silvestre Bello, chair of the government's peace panel, pointed out that the blacklisting had brought further uncertainty to the stalled peace process.

"I don't know what will be the effect of the EU declaration," Bello said in a phone interview.

He said he was "still discussing the prospects for the resumption of formal talks" with NDF senior political consultant Fidel Agcaoili early last week, and that about three weeks ago, he and Norwegian Ambassador to Manila Paul Moe conferred regarding Norway's "willingness" to host the talks.

Norway is part of the 15-nation European Union that blacklisted Sison and the NPA.

Double standard

Guingona, who had quit as foreign secretary because of policy differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the resolution of the decades-old communist insurgency would be delayed as a result of the EU decision.

"If the country cannot make a distinction between NPAs who are genuinely fighting for the ideology of the stomach and terrorists, our problem will be with us a little longer," he said.

Guingona noted an apparent double standard in the government's dealings with various rebel groups.

"The government negotiated with all of them, but now the NPA is being tagged as a terrorist organization," he said.

The government has signed peace agreements with the Moro National Liberation Front and the right-wing Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, and is currently conducting back-channel talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But the Vice President stressed that NPA rebels who had committed assassinations and other crimes should answer for these.

"They should not be excused," he said. "Even among rebels, there are those who commit crimes out of personal reasons."

Ms Macapagal had earlier sent Ople, her advisers Norberto Gonzales and Eduardo Ermita, and Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable to convince European governments to declare the CPP, NPA and NDF terrorist groups.

Ople announced Thursday that Sison and the NPA had been "proscribed internationally" with the blacklisting.

Bello stressed that sending the top-level mission to Europe was well within the prerogative of Ms Macapagal, who, he said, was the one calling the shots in the peace process.

He pointed out that continuing talks with the communists was not inconsistent with the government's policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

"By pursuing the talks, the President can bring about peace through a negotiated settlement and address the root causes of the communist insurgency," he said.

'Biggest reason'

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told reporters that Sison was the "single biggest reason" why the Philippine economy had lagged behind its neighbors.

He said the blacklisting merely showed that the whole world was now beginning to see Sison as "a master, not of reforms, but of terror."

Reyes dismissed Sison's warning of "fiercer armed revolution," and expressed the belief that Filipinos would not support a movement espousing terrorism.

He also said offensives against the NPA—estimated by the military at 10,000 fighters—would continue.

But Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said the peace process should be given a chance.

Villarama, Ople's former chief of staff, said the foreign secretary's strong lobby for the blacklisting could jeopardize the resumption of the peace talks.

He said "violent solutions to social problems never resulted in anything positive."

"In almost all wars, protagonists end up in peace talks. Why prefer war?" he said.

He also said improving the lives of the people would be the best weapon against insurgency.

Rev. Fr. Allan Jose Arcebuche, OFM, spokesperson of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), expressed sadness that "the gains of the peace process will be wasted because of the unjust tag on Philippine revolutionary groups as terrorists."

In a statement, the PCPR said Ople, Reyes and "other militarists" in the Macapagal administration were the "principal butchers of the peace process."

"We deeply deplore the trend to abandon the formal peace talks just because the US government has aggressively pressed other governments, including members of the European Union, to declare terrorists, and thereby criminalize, the NPA and Professor Sison," it said.

The PCPR called on the members of the European Parliament to uphold its resolution of July 17, 1997, on the Philippines that endorsed formal peace negotiations between the NDF and the Philippine government "within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration bilaterally forged by them on 1 September 1992." *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Carlito Pablo, Juliet L. Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila*

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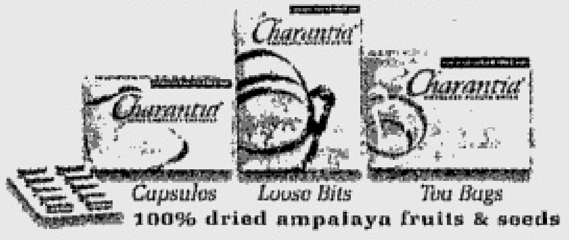

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More al-Qaida targets exposed

From page A1

Cambodia as likely terrorist targets for the first time.

Cambodia will host the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit on Monday, a meeting that will likely be dominated by discussions on terrorism.

Quoting suspected al-Qaida senior operative Omar Al-Faruq, the report said Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida had eyed the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Taiwan as targets for terror attacks last Sept. 11.

"Faruq revealed al-Qaida's terror plot in collaboration with the Jemaah Islamiyah on SEA (Southeast Asia) targets . . . to commemorate the 11 Sept. 2001 attacks on the US," the report read.

Al-Faruq, a Kuwaiti national, reportedly detailed al-Qaida's plans to mount new terrorist attacks in the Southeast Asian region following his arrest in June in Bogor, Indonesia.

Despite his arrest, Al-Faruq had reportedly said back-up operatives were ready "to assume responsibilities and carry out operations as planned."

"It must be noted that this new breed of terror is everywhere, even countries outside the Philippines. Even Indonesia, which has frequently denied al-Qaida's presence, was not exempt from this terror," the report read.

A series of explosions in the Indonesian holiday island of Bali last month killed nearly 200 victims and injured 300 more.

The report did not explain why these particular Southeast Asian countries and Taiwan were targeted, but it did say that any country which hosts US or Israeli interests was open to terrorist attack.

"US and Israeli interests are present the world over, making each host country vulnerable to terrorists," the report said. It noted that a lot of evidence detailing al-Qaida's plot to target Southeast Asia had been recovered from its bombed-out camps in Afghanistan.

The JI had been accused of plotting to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia and southern Philippines.

The arrest of Faruq and confessed JI member Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi in Manila in January will not stamp out terrorism, the officials who prepared the report said.

Police had seized 1.2 tons of high-powered explosives from Al-Ghozi's safe house in General Santos City intended for US and Israeli targets in Singapore.

The officials even said the recovery of firearms from Al-Ghozi's hideout may have also disrupted other terror plots, "likely saving Indonesian President Megawati (Sukarnoputri) who has been a JI target for assassination three times."

"Timely intelligence preempted the supposed plan of the JI to conduct bombing operations in Singapore and the Philippines. Al-Ghozi revealed that there is no compromise in what they do," the report continued.

Asean summit

The Cambodian summit will be held under tight security. Officials expect the 14-nation conference—the 10 Asean members plus China, India, Japan and South Korea—will produce concrete measures to fight terrorism, including greater pressure on Indonesia to rein in radical Islamic groups that have already infiltrated parts of Southeast Asia.

Prime ministers and presidents will arrive in the Cambodian capital with evidence, though still fragmentary, that the al-Qaida network has hooked up with local terrorist groups and have the capacity to launch more devastating strikes.

"It is our view that fighting terrorism requires the efforts of each country and the whole region," Vietnam's foreign ministry said in response to questions from the press.

Malaysian officials privately complain that Indonesia has not done enough to crack down on Islamic militant groups like the JI, which is suspected in the Bali bombings, or in tracking down fugitive Malaysian militants believed to be taking refuge there.

Malaysia plans to set up a US-backed regional center for counter-terrorism. It and neighboring Singapore have detained scores of suspected JI members and wants Indonesia to do the same.

Exaggerated advisory

The government assured the US Embassy yesterday that the authorities were prepared to thwart terrorist attacks, even as the President's spokesperson sought to downplay the significance of the US advisory warning its citizens in the Philippines of more terrorist attacks in upcoming weeks—in particular over the long weekend holiday. The advisory may have been "exaggerated," spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

He said the advisory, posted on the embassy's website and which also warned of terrorist attacks here during the Christmas-New Year holidays, only fanned the bomb scare.

"Our police and military are doing everything to ensure the safety of our people. They've been doing this for several months now," Tiglao said.

"We regret though that such American advisory has the tendency to scare the people more," he added.

The US warning said Philippine authorities have confirmed putting into place extra security measures to deter terrorists and protect the public. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, AP and AFP*

FOUR DIGIT
8 3 6 1
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
5 9 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 25 36 37 38 44

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: The Tour Championship, 12:30 p.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Star Sports

LPGA Tournament of Champions, 3 p.m., ESPN

BASKETBALL: NBA Basketball, 9 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff, 7:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

TENNIS: BNP Paribas Masters, 9 a.m. (r), 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Star Sports

EDUCATION FIRST
Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia Realtors scores one off two Philippine Christian University defenders in a recent adidas-PBA Campus Hoop Loop visit. The Hanford-supported project puts PBA teams to various universities and colleges to advocate relevant youth themes such as "finishing school first while living a sporting healthy life."

Singh co-leader with 65, leads Woods by 6 shots

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA–Vijay Singh wasn't sure his 5-wood could reach the green on the par-3 18th hole at East Lake Golf Club. His goal was to hit it straight, hit it hard and hope.

"It went dead straight, hard and stuck," Singh said Thursday.

The ball finished 8 inches from the cup for a rare birdie on the 232-yard closing hole, a 5-under 65 and a share of the lead with Steve Lowery in the Tour Championship.

He could have used that kind of result four years ago.

When the Tour Championship first came to East Lake in 1998, the tournament was his to win. Instead, Singh's 3-iron on the final hole bounced over the brick-hard green and into the rough, leading to a bogey. He lost to Hal Sutton on the first playoff hole.

SINGH

Even after one round in cold and swirling winds, Singh already was looking ahead to redemption in the Tour Championship—and at East Lake.

"It owed me one in 1998," Singh said. "It took me a while to get over that one, especially the shot I hit on 18. I would like to win this event, and on this golf course, because I've had two good finishes. We'll see on Sunday what happens."

Thursday was entertaining enough.

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, Nos. 1 and 2 in the world and on the PGA Tour money, played together for the first time this year, and what was believed to be the first time since the final round of the 2001 Masters, when Woods won his fourth straight major.

Neither of their memories were very good, although Woods won't forget the par-3 sixth hole any time soon. The wind laid down after he hit a soft 7-iron, and his ball bounded over the green and into the water for a double bogey.

Baguio's Milo Marathon draws 43,000

HIGH-ALTITUDE excitement.

That's how pundits describe the 11th regional elimination leg of the 26th National Milo Marathon, to be held in Baguio City on Nov. 10.

The starting gun will be fired at 6 a.m. at Burnham Park for the penultimate regional leg of the country's most popular footrace that has so far has attracted some 43,000 runners, mostly young students.

This year's edition will be co-sponsored by Bayview Park Hotel, adidas Philippines, Cebu Pacific, Ford Philippines and the Department of Tourism.

The Baguio race will be highlighted by the 20-k elimination category, serving as the qualifier for runners in the region aiming for slots in the 42-K grand finals to be held on Dec. 8 in Metro Manila.

Other categories of the Baguio leg are the 5-K Fun Run and the 3-K Kiddie Run, which are expected to draw thousands of youthful runners.

Celebrities will also add color to the Baguio leg of this year's National Milo Marathon.

Pat Goc-ong, the newly appointed Milo sports executive replacing Jackby Jaime, said the Baguio race will rekindle the marathon's ties with the city, site of first Milo Marathon regional event.

It happened in 1977, three years after the Milo Marathon began in Manila.

Goc-ong said that Baguio City has contributed its share to the Milo Marathon by producing two champions–Ernesto Mendoza in 1976 and Justo Tabunda in 1978 and 1980.

Cristabel Martes, this year's defending champion in the women's division and the second women champion with three championships in a row, is also a native of Baguio City.

New York race

NEW YORK–There were 127 runners in the first New York City Marathon in 1970, but some 30,000 will compete before two million spectators lining the streets as the world's most famous marathon streaks by for the 33rd time on Sunday (Monday in Manila). The handful of jogging and fitness fanatics who made up the core of the first race in Central Park formed the New York Road Runners Club (NYRR) and turned it into a unique sporting club, with a staff of 60 and a multi-million dollar budget. *AFP*

Pililia, Argao host bikathon qualifying

ALL roads lead to Pililla in Rizal and Argao in Cebu for three consecutive Sundays this month when the Tour Pilipinas 2003's first of a three-tiered qualifying process is staged.

"The Tour season is officially on," said Bert Lina, chair of Airfreight 2100, presentor of the Tour Pilipinas 2003, a revival of the fabled multi-stage cycling marathon that ran for close to five decades but ended abruptly in 1998.

"Our cyclists, may they be the veterans of the previous Tours and the up-and-coming, would now see the realization of the Tour we promised about and one that they looked forward to," added Lina.

The pre-qualifying and qualifying process will be managed by the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines (PCAP), the same group that ran the previous Tours and the FedEx Calabarzon 2002, the four-stage dry-run conducted by Airfreight 2100-FedEx Philippines last summer.

"We have in the roster the cream of the crop of Philippine road cycling. We also see on the list names of young and passionate riders whom we believe would hog the sports headlines in the near future," said Airfreight 2100 president Lito Alvarez.

Mar Mendoza, Tour Pilipinas 2003 executive director, expects the level of competition in each of the pre-qualifying and qualifying races to be fever-pitch each time, citing the pent-up enthusiasm among cyclists who have waited at least four years to take on the road again in their bid for both fame and fortune only the summer spectacle on wheels could bring.

Pililla, a serene town just off picturesque Laguna de Bay, will play venue to two pre-qualifying races on Nov. 10 and 10 for the Tour Pilipinas 2003 aspirants from Luzon.

Argao, a similarly quiet and unassuming town in Cebu, hosts the Visayas and Mindanao hopefuls on Nov. 24, also on a Sunday.

More than 200 cyclists are vying in the pre-qualifying stage, all of which are individual time trial races (ITT) covering 40 kms of paved roads with the characteristic wind, climb and descent that brings the brute force and wily strategy out of a rider.

SPORTSWATCH

World Matchplay: Park beats Webb

NARITA, Japan–South Korean star Grace Park defeated Australia's Karrie Webb to advance to the quarterfinals of the $3-million World Ladies Matchplay Championship here Friday. Park, the 1998 US amateur champion, edged past the three-time US top money earner one-up after a gripping duel at the 6,467-yard Narita Golf Club course. The Korean now faces Japan's Yuri Fudo in Saturday's last eight. Fudo became the only representative from the host nation to reach the quarter-finals when she defeated Australia's Rachel Teske, 3 and 1. *AFP*

Spain, Slovakia Fed Cup finalists

SPAIN will meet Slovakia in the final of the Fed Cup after the two countries won their semifinals in deeply contrasting styles on Thursday. Hosts Spain needed all their fighting qualities to stave off a superb comeback from Austria before scraping a 3-2 victory, while Slovakia beat Italy, 3-1, thanks to singles wins from Daniela Hantuchova and Janette Husarova. *Reuters*

Hewitt, Agassi quarterfinalists

AGASSI

PARIS–Lleyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi reached the Paris Masters quarterfinals on Thursday, intensifying their battle to end the year on top of the rankings. Both were upstaged, however, when Spain's Carlos Moya produced an incredible fightback to oust reigning champion Sebastien Grosjean of France, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1. Grosjean, roared on by a capacity crowd in the Bercy stadium, seemed certain of a quarterfinal place as he stood at 40-0 when serving for the match at 6-5 in the second set. But Moya refused to admit defeat and, helped by a double fault at 40-30, dragged the match into a tiebreak. Moya, who knew defeat would end his hopes of qualifying for next month's end-of-season Masters Cup in Shanghai, saved three more match points in the tiebreak before clinching the set and romping through the decider. *Reuters*

Employee fired for altering bets

ALBANY, New York–An employee for the company that handled the Breeders' Cup Pick Six wagering has been fired for allegedly altering tickets that turned out to be worth more than $3 million. Lorne Weil, chairman and CEO of Scientific Games, the parent company of Autotote Corp., said Thursday during a conference call with Wall Street investment firms that the former employee was identified after an internal investigation. The dismissal comes as the New York Racing and Wagering Board continues its investigation into whether someone was able to hack into computers processing the bets and change their bets following the start of Saturday's races at Illinois' Arlington Park.

GUIAO SUPPORTER
Coach Yeng Guiao of Red Bull (extreme left) and his staff will continue to banner Hang Ten in the ongoing PBA All-Filipino after successfully winning the last PBA Commissioner's Cup. The Thunder are also being outfitted by the popular sports apparel.

RP to field young bets for 'beach'

CLARK, Pampanga–The Philippines has young bets joining the University Games champion in the tough 1st Clark Centennial Cup Asian Women's beach volleyball championship set at scenic Clearwater here next week.

The partnerships of Jennifer Bohawe and Sarah Faye Luna, and Cecille Tabuena and Helen Dosdos square off with the best teams from Southwest Asia when the tournament organized by AYN Sports Management Group opens Wednesday.

The Philippine sides clash with teams from Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand and are dubbed as underdogs in this meet backed by PAL, Speedo, Absolute, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Star.

Coach Roger Gorayeb, who also handles the Philippine indoor team, is confident of a strong RP finish in this six-nation, 10-team tourney.

He is pinning his hopes on the tested Bohawe-Luna pair which ruled the University Games in Bacolod last year.

Bohawe and Luna are presently in Hong Kong and are set to open the RP bid in the fifth leg of this circuit today, while Tabuena and Dosdos are being prepared by Gorayeb for the grind ahead here in this former United States base.

The roster of teams competing is a crack one, with Thailand to send Kamoltip Kulna and Jarunee Sannok, the Busan Asian Games fourth placers and Manatsanan Pangka and Rattanapon Arlaisuk, the tandem ranked 18th in the world and the 1998 Bangkok Asiad gold medalists.

China, a world power in the sport, is likely to send a team to the Philippine leg, while Vietnam and Indonesia, like the Philippines, will be fielding in two teams for the top purse worth US$3,000.

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Jordan, Stackhouse star

Wizards deal Celtics worst NBA beating ever

WASHINGTON—Jerry Stackhouse had 22 points and 10 assists while Michael Jordan scored 21 points in just 22 minutes as the Washington Wizards handed the Boston Celtics their worst ever loss, 114-69, in NBA action on Thursday.

Jordan had just eight points, none in the second half, in Wednesday's opening night loss at Toronto.

But he rebounded against the Celtics, shooting 8-of-15 from the field, to help the Wizards give the Celtics their worst defeat in their vaunted history.

Boston's previous most lopsided loss was a 128-84 defeat at Portland on January 4, 1977.

Stackhouse also had seven rebounds for Washington, while Kwame Brown contributed 20 points and six blocks. The Wizards shot 52 percent, while the Celtics managed just 29.6 percent from the field.

Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker had 12 points each for the Celtics, who trailed 58-40 at the half.

Boston, which didn't score a point in the final four-and-a-half minutes, is now 0-2 to start the season after an embarrassing 99-96 loss to the Chicago Bulls at home on Wednesday.

In Atlanta, Glenn Robinson scored 30 points and Jason Terry had 21 points and 13 assists to give the Hawks a 105-98 win over the Utah Jazz.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 17 points for the Hawks, who won their home opener and improved to 1-1 after a 104-95 loss at New Jersey Wednesday.

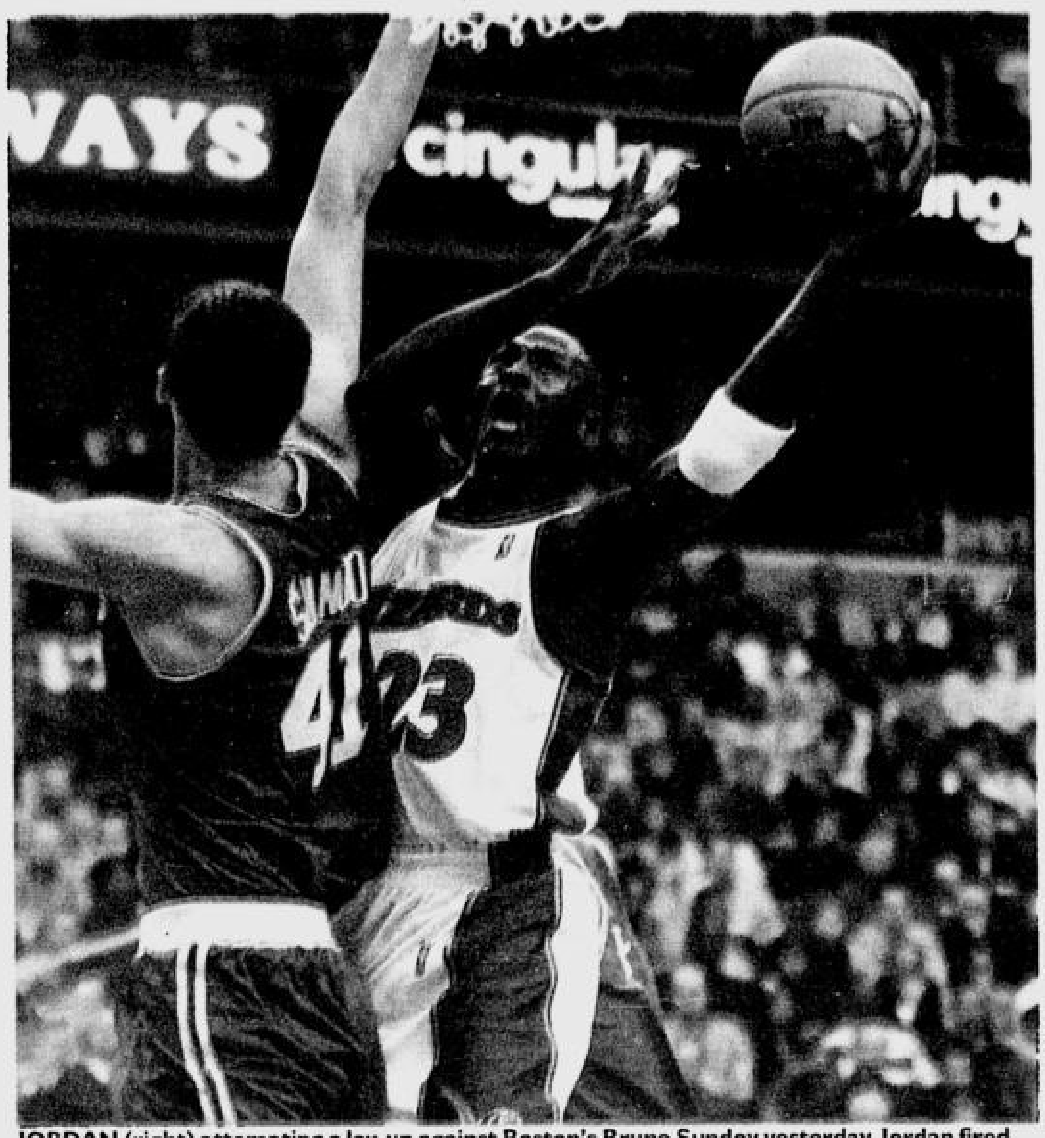
Karl Malone topped Utah's scorers with 20 points. Matt Harpring added 19 points while Jarrod Collins had 18 for the Jazz, now 0-2 after losing at New Orleans on Wednesday.

In Sacramento, Predrag Stojakovic had 26 points and Bobby Jackson had 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Kings downed the Portland Trail Blazers 100-72.

Hidayet Turkoglu added 16 points for the Kings, while Vlade Divac added 13. Gerald Wallace had 11 points and 10 rebounds as the Kings improved to 2-0 to start the season.

Rasheed Wallace had 24 points and nine rebounds for Portland, while Bonzi Wells added 11 points.

Dale Davis had 11 rebounds for Portland, now 1-1. *Reuters*



JORDAN (right) attempting a lay-up against Boston's Bruno Sundov yesterday. Jordan fired 21 points as Washington won, 114-69. REUTERS

Yao flop China's top story

BEIJING—Giant center Yao Ming's National Basketball Association debut was the top story on China's sports pages Friday, with most papers lamenting the 2.26m (7ft 5in) player's dismal debut for the Houston Rockets.

The Beijing Star Daily played up Yao's comments that basketball in the NBA was "like a war," adding that the center known in China as the "little giant" had taken a beating in Houston's 91-82 loss to the Indiana Pacers.

"In his first battle, Yao Ming, the rookie soldier, was utterly routed," said the paper.

"Eleven minutes off the bench, zero points, two rebounds, three fouls and two turnovers ... This is not the Yao Ming we know."

The China Sports Daily said there were two Yao Mings, one which was a media-created image of a center with well-developed skills and a mature understanding of the game.

"Although the other Yao Ming is the number one NBA draft pick, he is a rookie with no NBA experience and is being given a baptism of fire without the benefit of a training camp or preseason games," it said.

Yao, the first non-US player selected as the top pick in the NBA Draft, has only spent 10 days with the Rockets since arriving from China after the Asian Games.

Former national team coach Zhang Weiping told the China Sports Daily that Yao's biggest task would be adjusting to the speed of the NBA game, but cautioned that the 22-year-old ran the risk of becoming burned out after a long summer of international basketball.

"After the China Basketball League, the Turkish Invitational, the World Championships and the Asian Games, Yao Ming has played game after game without taking the time to mentally adjust or recuperate," Zhang said. *AFP*

Champion League draws 16 teams, opens Nov. 10

THE. CHAMPION League 2002, drawing 16 teams, unwraps on Nov. 10 at the Makati Coliseum.

Commissioner Ramon Fernandez said Ateneo, De La Salle and San Sebastian should not take the provincial teams lightly.

Joining the Blue Eagles, Green Archers and Stags are Sto. Tomas U, University of the East, College of St. Benilde, Jose Rizal University, Philippine School of Business Administration, University of Manila, St. Francis of Assisi, Las Piñas College, University of Baguio, University of Mindanao, University of San Jose-Recoletos, University of Visayas and West Negros College.

The elimination round will be a knockout affair, with the eight winning teams moving to the quarterfinal round. The four semifinalists will battle for finals slots; the crown will be decided by a best-of-three series.

Supported by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and endorsed by Commissioner Jun Bernardino of the PBA and Chino Trinidad of the PBL, Champions League 2002 had been envisioned as a development league.

Jordan's roster-overhaul pays off

By Joseph White
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON—One night after his lackluster performance prompted laughs from the crowd, Michael Jordan scored 21 points in 21 minutes as the Washington Wizards beat Boston 114-69 Thursday (Friday in Manila).

"In terms of what we all envisioned, in putting this team together, tonight it worked perfectly," said Jordan, who overhauled the roster over the summer. "I'd like to have about 55 more like this."

The 45-point loss topped Boston's previous worst of 42 points, a 128-84 loss at Portland on Jan. 4, 1977. It was the third-biggest margin of victory in Wizards history.

"That surprises me–all the games in that storied franchise," Washington coach Doug Collins said. "But trust me, I never in a million years dreamed that this would have happened tonight.

"I had breakfast with my wife and I said, 'I hope we score 70 points tonight–two more than last night –at least show some improvement.'"

Jerry Stackhouse had 22 points and 10 assists for Washington.

Jordan capped the first half with a flourish. He made his second free throw, raced to his right to steal the inbounds pass, pumped and made a 6.5-meter (21-foot) jump shot just before the halftime buzzer. He left the court with a big smile to thunderous applause.

Jordan scored just eight points and missed a dunk in the second half of Wednesday's season-opening loss at Toronto, but he passed that tally in the second half alone against the Celtics. The 39-year-old guard shot 8-of-15 from the field and 5-of-5 from the free-throw line. He had four rebounds and five assists.

Kwame Brown, a disappointment as the No. 1 overall pick in the draft a year ago, had his second successive solid game. He set the defensive tone with four blocks in the first quarter and finished with 20 points, six rebounds and six blocks.

The Celtics shot just 30 percent one night after they lost their opener at home to Chicago.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Ed Bermudez and Gene Basa combined for 1338 pins to win Class a doubles title in the 3rd SJBA Invitational Open championship at Greenlanes.

RP survives Torre fall, routs Tajikistan, 3-1

BLED—The Philippines survived a second defeat by Eugene Torre to swamp Tajikistan, 3-1, and earn another shot at climbing closer to the Top 10 after six rounds of the 35th Chess Olympiad here Thursday.

The victory put the Filipinos to a tie for 26th to 29th with India, Argentina and Uzbekistan.

Torre, using his mainstay Pirc Defense, fell prey to a rampaging kingside attack from Fide Master Parrukh Amonatiov that forced him to surrender a piece on the 24th move.

Down by a whole rook, Torre resigned in 39 moves.

But his two fellow grandmasters, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, outplayed their opponents, and a triumph by Mark Paragua rounded off the score to 3-1.

Antonio's aggressive maneuvering neded him an attack, which he pursued by giving up a rook to force International Master Jarnshed Isaev to give up in 44 moves of a Scotch Game.

Legaspi sweeps Peace chessfest

GARY Legaspi whipped Manny Yu in the last round to complete a rare six-game sweep in the Success section ot the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express.

Rolando Gangozo, emerging undefeated with four wins and two draws, topped the Prosperity section at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

A total of 50 participants competed in the one-day event organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Land Bank and Belgosa Media Systems. The sixth leg will be held on Nov. 30. Call Acca at tel. 892-8759 for details.

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It's all systems go for Manila Ladies golf

IT'S all systems go for the 1st Manila Ladies Amateur Open slated at Wack Wack West on Nov. 12-14.

The inaugural event is being staged by Manila Lady Golfers Foundation Inc., which was established two years ago with the purpose of helping fight abuse against women and children.

The championship flight for those with handicap 0 to 9 will feature Divina Delasin, sister of LPGA champion Dorothy Delasin, and Carmelette Villaroman, Aileen Yao, Jayvie Agojo, Tracy Locsin, Lora Roberto, Ia Bakunawa, Carina Ricamonte, Lucy Landicho, and Matet Salivio.

The sponsors are Philippine Bank of Communications, Splash Corp., .Taylor Made adidas, Pagcor, Uniliver, Welch, Jardin de Paraiso, Britanny, Fortune Tobacco, San Miguel Corp., Orocan, Red Ribbon, Shangri-La Makati, Summit Sports and Spa in Quezon City, Godiva, Mango, Discoverey Suites Ortigas, Pan Pacific Hotel in Ermita, TechnoMed, ATR Torres Wines Inc., Coco Gem, Air Philippines, Bingo Bonanza, GNC, Prudential Guarantee & Assurance Inc., Robinsons Galleria, Star Pack, Wilson WS Sports Inc, Nestea Phils., and PacSport Phils.

Beneficiaries of the event include the Quezon Memorial Hospital and foundations for women and children.

For inquiries call 0917-8919554 or 0919-5380204.

Dumapong cops silver

BUSAN, South Korea—Powerlifter Adeline Dumapong won the silver medal in the women's 82.5 kg division on Thursday at the Pukyong National University gymnasium to cap the Philippine campaign in the 8th Far East and South Pacific (Fespic) Games for the Disabled here.

Dumapong, bronze medalist in the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, lifted 105 kg to tie the bench-press record of Australian Julie Russell set in the Beijing Fespic Games in 1995.

The gold went to Chinese Li Ruifang, who had a new world record lift of 142.5 kg, erasing her own mark of 140 kg set early this year. Korean Kim Mi Soon lifted 75 kg for the bronze medal.

"I'm very happy for winning the silver medal," said the 28-year-old Dumapong, who resumed her training only two months ago after giving birth to a girl last May.

TOUR SUPPORT
San Miguel Corp. has thrown its support behind the ongoing First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit, organized and managed by the Federation of Golf Clubs (Phils.) Inc. Shown turning over the sponsorship check to chair Ben Abalos Sr., commissioner of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines and chair of the executive committee, is Ira Daniel B. Maniquis (third from right), SMC vice president for corporate affairs. Watching are (from left) Charles Own, SMC manager for Metro Manila; Mon Santiago, chief of stakeholder relations and external affairs; Wack Wack general manager SP Malbarosa, circuit secretariat and media relations head; and Bones Floro, Wack Wack and circuit tournament director.

Congratulations to the Caltex's Choose-A-Prize 1st Monthly Draw Winners!

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Nokia 3310 Winners

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Survivors identify QC bus bomber

By Alcuin Papa

SURVIVORS of the Balintawak bus bombing have positively identified suspect Jerry Minalang as the man who had gotten off the bus shortly before it exploded even as police ordered an investigation on Minalang's alleged torture by Manila policemen.

Minalang, 37, a native of Makaguiling, Sultan Kudarat and a resident of 10-B Sapang Bato, Bagumbayan in Libis, Quezon City, was arrested last Oct. 28 by policemen from the Western Police District on charges of illegal possession of firearms.

WPD policemen were accused of torturing Minalang, whose family even secured a medical certificate that showed him to have suffered injuries.

Central Police District Director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro yesterday also told reporters that they were still looking for other witnesses to positively identify Minalang.

"In fairness to the guy, he is still not considered as a suspect unless there are other witnesses," Castro said. "We would like to get at least two or more witnesses to identify him before we can file charges against him."

He said that one of the survivors had positively identified Minalang as the man who got down from the Golden Hi-Way Transit bus before the explosion last Oct. 18.

Another witness also said that Minalang had "looked like" the man, whom the CPD has already considered as the prime suspect in the bombing, Castro said.

He said that Minalang had bruises in his body when he was turned over to the CPD, adding that NCRPO chief Deputy Dir. Gen. Reynaldo Velasco has ordered the CPD to investigate Minalang's alleged torture.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod denied that Minalang was tortured when he was

SURVIVORS/ A26

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Terrorist plot uncovered in cell phone call

By Alcuin Papa

A BIG bang, a shipment of chemicals, additional personnel, a car and two motorbikes were discussed in a cell phone conversation.

The words Allah and infidels were also mentioned in the conversation.

With sophisticated Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) bugging devices worth P18 million, members of a police intelligence group intercepted the conversation and had identified one of the voices as that of Abu Muslim Al-Ghazi, a member of a known Islamic group and a target of police operations since the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings, according to a source.

The source said that the terrorists spoke of a big incident and a big bang in malls and other high-profile targets with a large concentration of people.

Makati was mentioned twice in the conversation, and the big bang was supposed to happen on or after Nov. 1, the source added.

"This could indicate that the supposed big bang could be bigger than a package or a knapsack," the source said. "It could be a car bomb or something on a motorcycle, similar to the bomb attack on a shrine in Zamboanga City."

Authorities are apparently taking the threat seriously as the National Capital Region Police Office yesterday ordered the Metro Manila police to go on heightened alert.

An NCRPO official said that the five police

TERRORIST/ A26

Pregnant wife nabs cell phone thief

By Leila B. Salaverria

SHE'S about to give birth, and was even carrying her three-year-old son, but this did not stop housewife Teresita C. Niizuma from going after a man who yesterday allegedly stole her cell phone in Makati.

Niizuma, 37, said that she had just come out of her house on South Avenue in Makati at about 1 p.m. yesterday to go to the Manila South Cemetery when she heard her niece accuse Rommel Dela Paz, 33, of San Andres Bukid, Manila of taking Niizuma's cell phone from her backpack.

She saw Dela Paz holding her maroon 3310 cell phone, which she had earlier entrusted to her niece, Niizuma said.

She then put down her child, went after Dela Paz and hit him once in the face, she said.

"I think he was stunned," Niizuma said. "I saw several other men scamper away after I hit the suspect."

Niizuma's godfather then got hold of Dela Paz and brought him to barangay officials and the police.

Niizuma said that she was glad that Dela Paz was not able to get her wallet, which contained money that would pay her hospital bills when she gives birth anytime soon.

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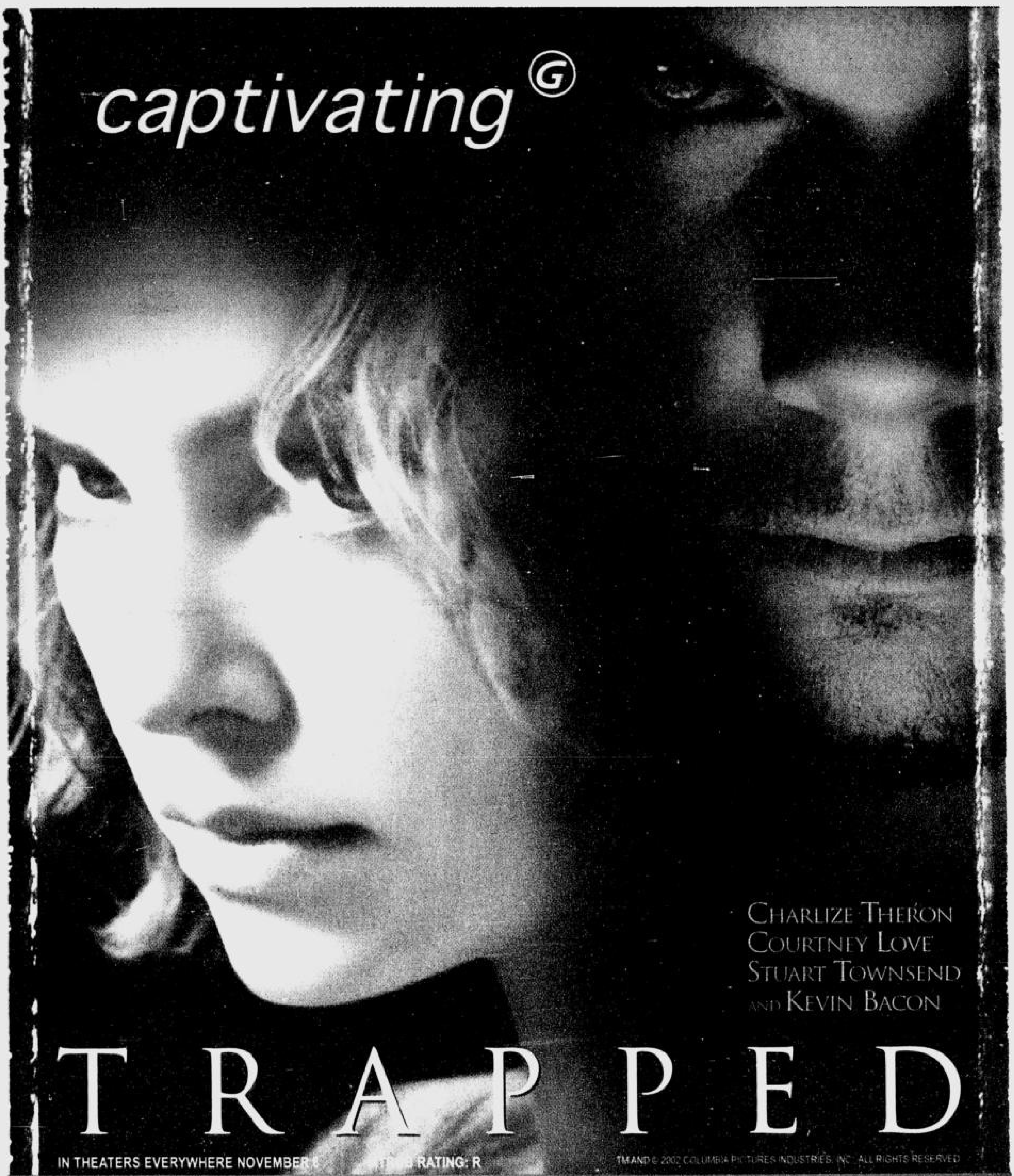
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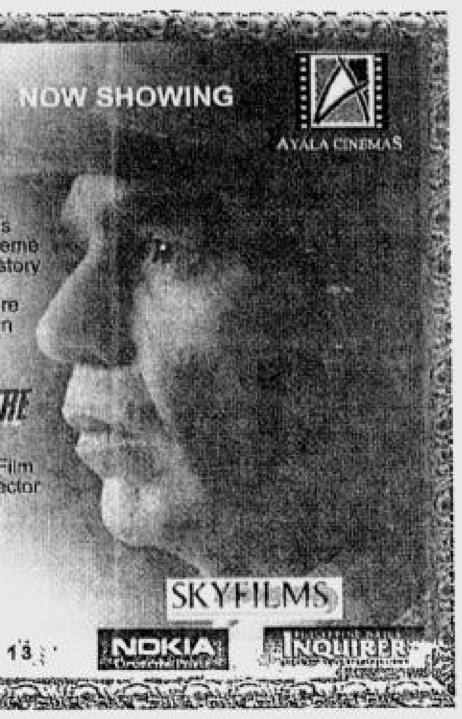

Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.

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Cops crack down on illegal gambling in mini-carnivals

By Leila B. Salaverria

MINI-CARNIVALS or the "peryahan" is the latest target of the National Police Commission in its campaign against jueteng.

Napolcom Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza said he has issued a memorandum to National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco to immediately crack down on illegal mini-carnivals in Metro Manila.

In a statement, Pureza said the "peryahan" has become a venue for all kinds of illegal gambling and criminal activities.

He added that mini-carnivals breed corruption among police officers who act as protectors of the illegal operations.

"(The mini-carnivals) have become a haven for some criminal elements," he said.

He warned that the mini-carnivals have played host to various types of illegal gambling and even led some policemen to engage in extortion activities.

The Napolcom learned about these activities after three policemen were caught extorting money from an illegal mini-carnival in Caloocan.

One of those caught is PO3 Romeo Roles, a policeman detailed with the Napolcom.

Jueteng has been a perennial problem for the country. The fight to stop jueteng has cost the careers of seven top officials of the Philippine National Police.

The seven were relieved after illegal gambling activities were discovered in their areas of jurisdiction.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.

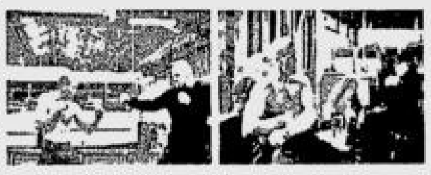
IF YOU WANT ACTION?

"The Transporter" has action. Buckets of action. This frantic new cross-cultural flick serves up a new formula for action movies: start with lots of action, then add more and better action, and then finish with nothing but action.

The movie is about Frank Martin (Statham), he has the nerves of harden steel and ruthless driving driving skills that make him a sought-after free agent in transporting illegal commerce. *Here are his rules:* (1) Never change the deal; (2) No names; and (3) Never look in the package. These self-imposed rules have served him well.

Frank's newest transport is no different from the ones he's done in the past. But when Frank stops along route, he notices his "package" is moving. Violating Rule Three, Frank looks inside the bag, finding its contents to be a woman.

Frank's devotion to his other rules - which make up his basic codeof survival - also quickly falls, and led him to a road leading to shocking secrets, deadly complications, and the last thing Frank ever expected to come to believe: that rules are made to be broken.



...he (Statham) could easily destroy the likes of Jean-Claude Van Damme and Steven Seagal or tough guys like Tom Cruise and Vin Diesel
-Danny Minton, KBTV, NBC

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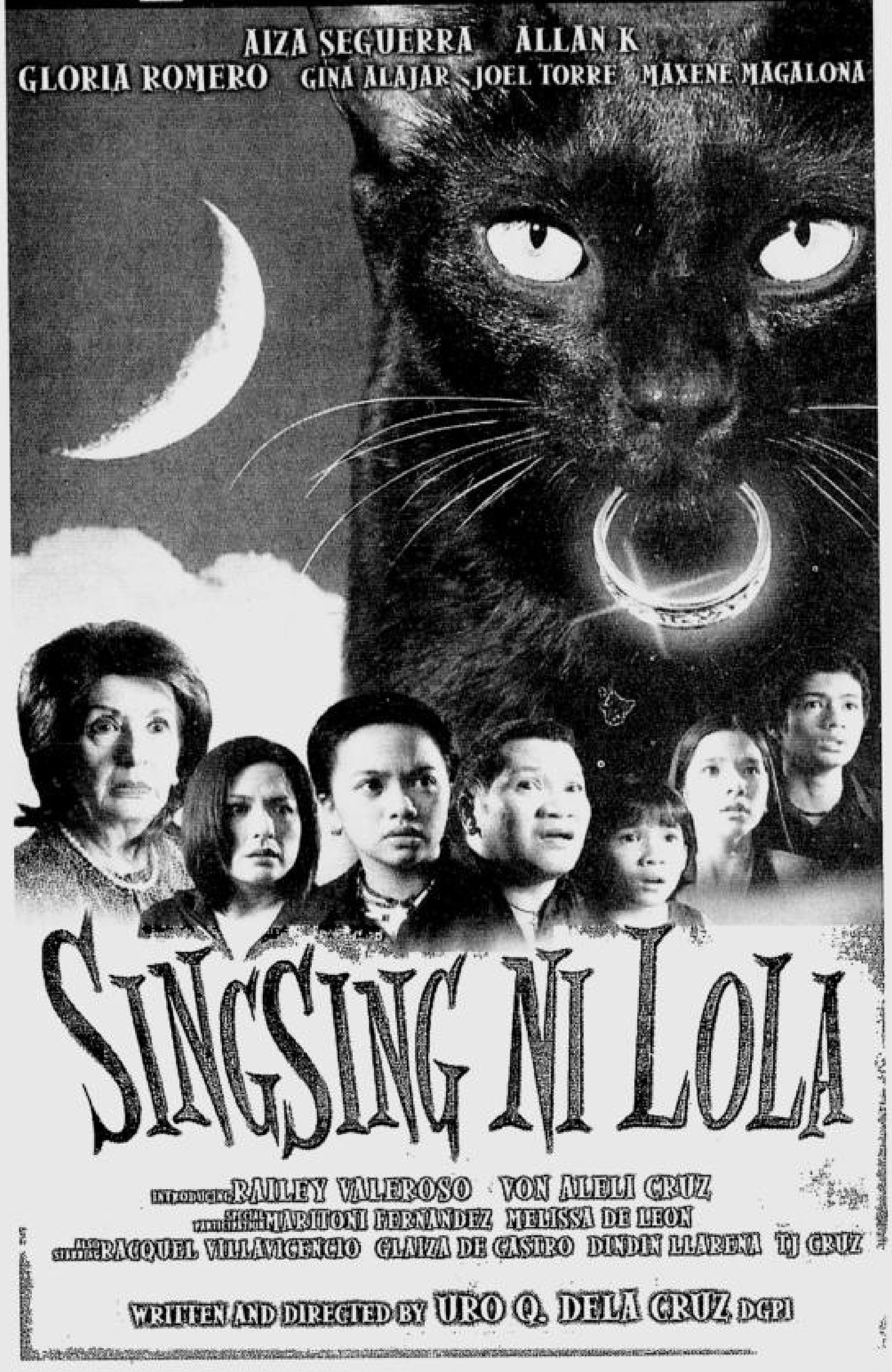
AIZA SEGUERRA ALLAN K
GLORIA ROMERO GINA ALAJAR JOEL TORRE MAXENE MAGALONA
SINGSING NI LOLA
RAILEY VALEROSO VON ALELI CRUZ
MARITONI FERNANDEZ MELISSA DE LEON
RACQUEL VILLAVICENCIO GLAIZA DE CASTRO DINDIN LLARENA TJ CRUZ
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY URO Q. DELA CRUZ DGPI

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN
ODEON	GHOST SHIP
ODEON-2	BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
ROBEN	BOMBA QUEEN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-2	GHOST SHIP
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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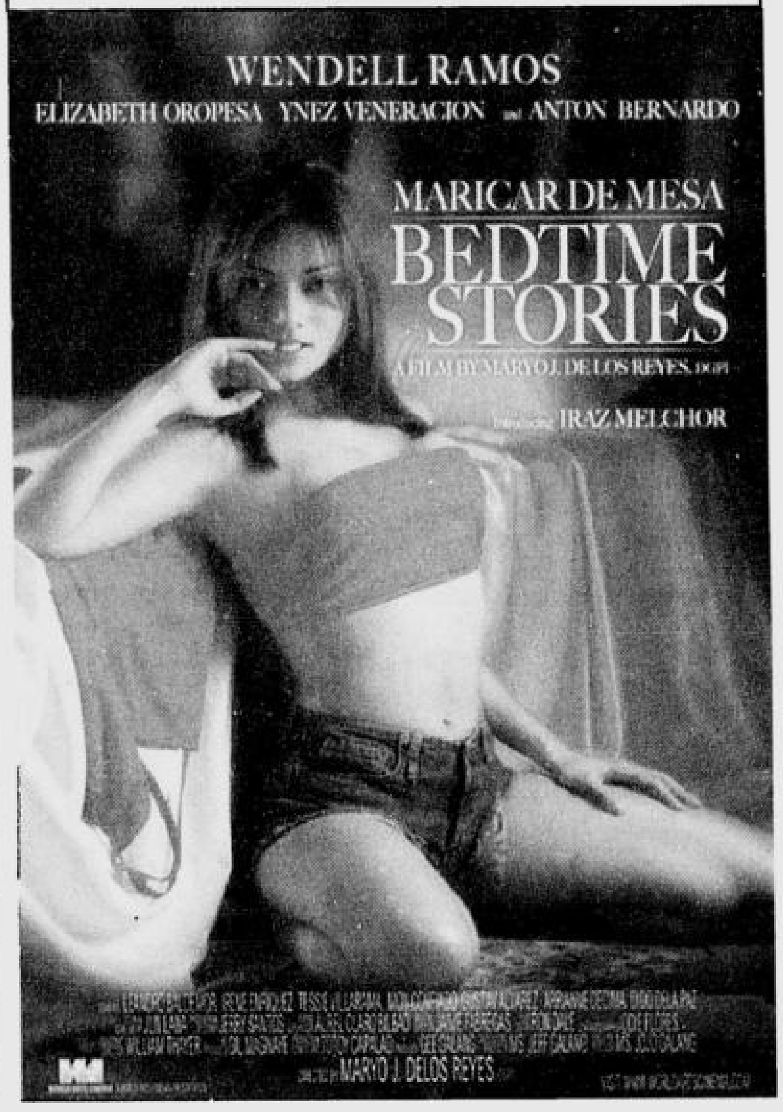
WENDELL RAMOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA YNEZ VENERACION and ANTON BERNARDO
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BEDTIME STORIES
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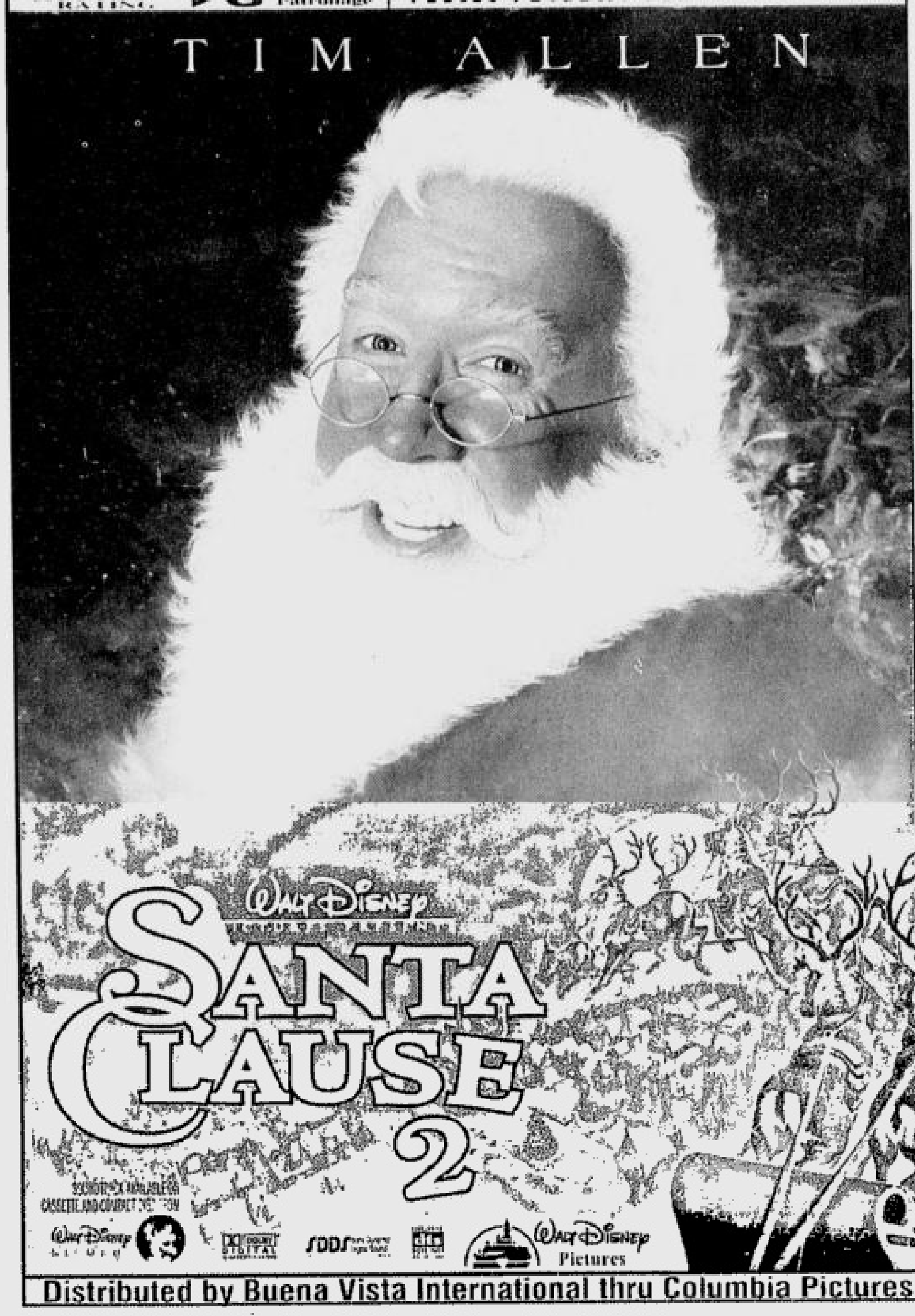
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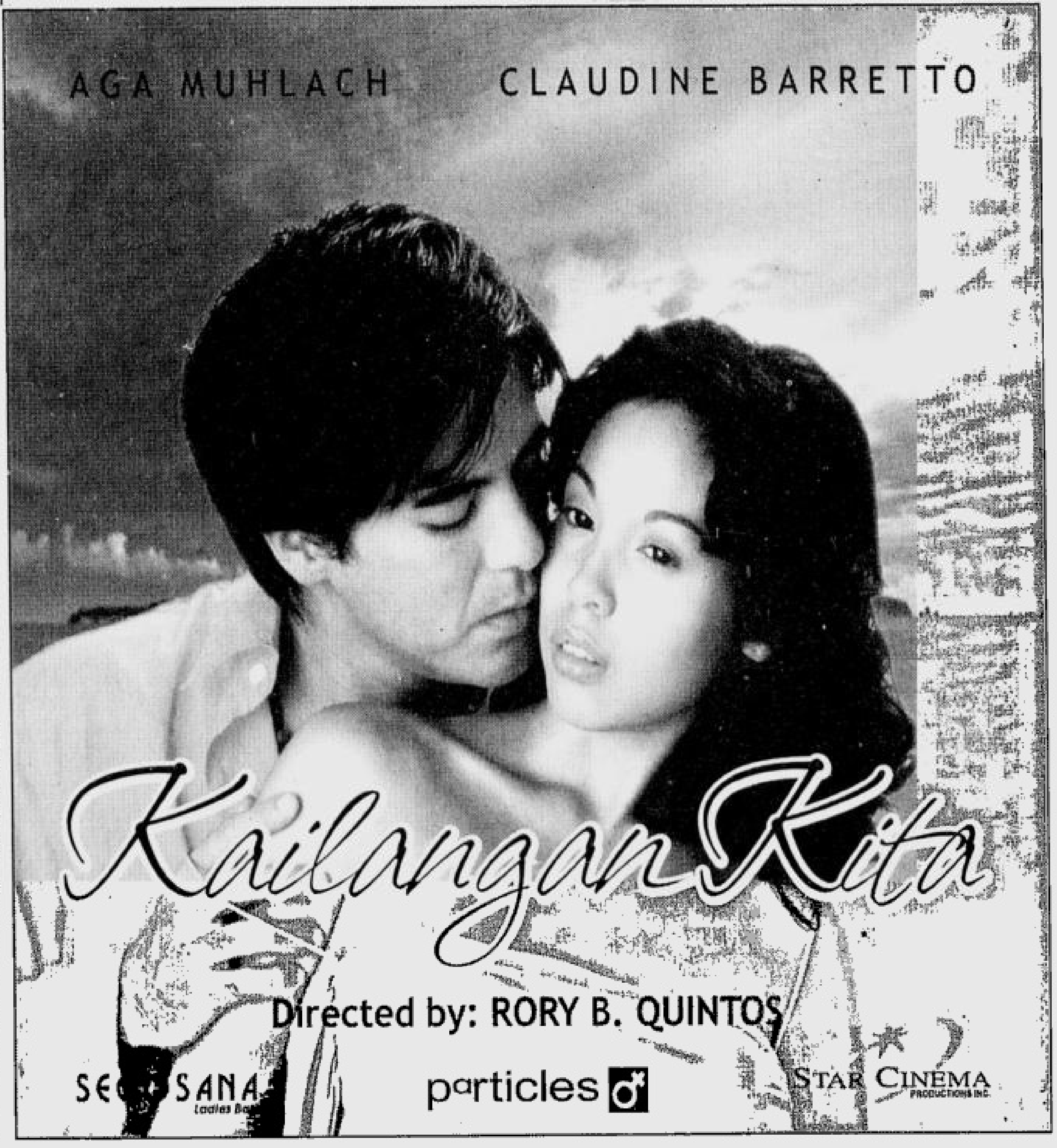
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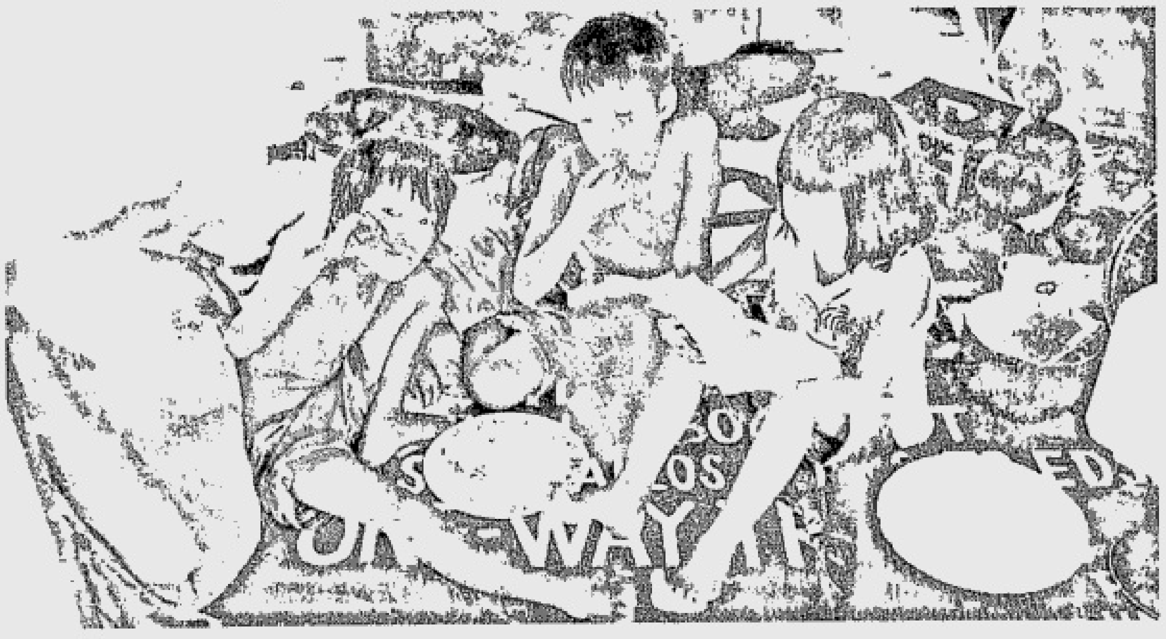


ALL SOULS' FEAST
Three children on a makeshift shelter along Agham Road in Quezon City share a meager meal of rice to feed their hunger. But the girl is also feeding her soul with a workbook from school and leaves the rice to the boys.

JOAN BONDOC

Cops raid shabu lab in Parañaque

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE yesterday raided a drug laboratory in Parañaque City which can supposedly manufacture at least 1,000 kilos of high-grade shabu daily.

The raid came hours after policemen arrested a Chinese businessman whom they tagged as the operator of the shabu laboratory in Parañaque.

Bin Xu Zi, 30, a resident of Quirino Ave. in Barangay Tambo, yielded an undetermined amount of suspected shabu after he was arrested during a routine police patrol at around 4 a.m.

At 6 p.m., police hit the suspect's alleged laboratory in a house on Hemlock Street, Executive Heights Village, Barangay Sun Valley, after securing a search warrant.

Police pegged the street value of a single kilo of shabu at P2 million.

Theoretically, the laboratory can manufacture shabu worth P2 billion daily, according to Senior Insp. Nedy Muarit of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Muarit said the Parañaque drug laboratory was the biggest ever taken out by police.

Inside the house, police found five fully setup shabu-making equipment.

Muarit said there were more equipment still waiting to be set up, but these were still in crates scattered all around the house.

Bin Xu Zi told police after his arrest that a Mr. Lee is the one renting the house on Hemlock Street.

The house is said to be owned by a Teddy Monasterio, police said.

Policemen found at least 20 boxes containing bottles of thionyl chloride, a key ingredient in the manufacture of shabu.

In the master bedroom, police also found a diagram detailing the drug-making procedure in Chinese, investigators said.

The raiders also seized two sacks of what they believed to be frozen shabu.

Bin was in his red Mitsubishi Delica van (XET-889) when SPO2 Carlito Jonson and village watchmen accosted him for violating the city's anti-littering ordinance at around 4 a.m., investigation showed.

Immediately after Bin drove the van out of his house, Jonson and his men stopped the vehicle and searched it, according to Supt. Ruben Catabona, the city's police chief.

Catabona said Bin refused to be inspected and dumped a traveling bag as he tried to escape on foot. The bag supposedly contained illegal substances which were later turned over to the Scene of the Crime Operatives of the Southern Police District.

Cornered, the suspect tried to bribe authorities with P9,000, according to the city police chief.

Catabona said Bin had been the subject of police surveillance for the last two months following reports about his alleged drug laboratory.

RAM's warning a mad man's raving

On Target
Ramon Tulfo

THE REBOLUSYONARYONG Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), a militant soldiers' group, has warned President Macapagal-Arroyo to change the country's political system or face ouster through a coup d'etat.

The government should not let such arrogance pass!

GMA should not allow herself to be pushed around by a group of military rascals whose claim to fame is helping depose dictator Marcos during EDSA 1.

* * *

RAM has joined an anti-Macapagal group, the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), in pushing for an interim administration prior to the establishment of a parliamentary-type government.

RAM spokesman Col. Reynaldo Samaco said that if GMA's government does not listen to the call to prepare the country for a change to parliamentary system, "we'd rather not have (2004) elections."

He hinted that RAM would stage a coup.

"How are we going to put an interim government in place without a coup? If it's possible for a government to initiate changes, that would be more peaceful."

* * *

The nerve of that Colonel Samaco!

He acts like RAM holds the Macapagal-Arroyo administration by the neck.

Even if RAM had the manpower and resources, which it doesn't, it has no business to threaten the government.

* * *

RAM is now a paper tiger. Its members have abandoned the organization after it staged several coups in the past.

Most of its members saw that RAM leaders used them for their personal aggrandizement.

After each coup, the small soldiers who took part were either demoted or dismissed from the service, while their officers were promoted. One even became a senator.

"Bakit naman kami susunod sa kanila, e alam naman naming gagamitin na naman kami (Why should we follow them, when we know that they'll use us again)?," said a former coup participant. This soldier was bypassed in promotion several times while his comrades who didn't take part in the coup are now three grades above him.

The threat by Colonel Samaco, if ever he is real, is the ranting and ravings of a mad man.

* * *

The PCA is similarly situated as RAM. It's a unique organization in that it has officers but no rank-and-file staff.

The Philippine Consultative Assembly is composed of Linda Montayre and some other persons who claim to be officers.

If you don't believe me, ask Transportation Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso, chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO). Lastimoso, who used to be with the PCA, will tell you that Montayre is the entire PCA.

* * *

Aside from Samaco, the only active members of RAM are Customs Collector Billy Bibit and his handful of bodyguards at the Port of Cebu.

Bibit was given a juicy assignment, despite his being an insubordinate official, to accommodate the RAM.

Bibit refused to vacate his post at the Subic Freeport last year despite orders from his superiors. To appease him, he was even rewarded with the Cebu assignment, one of the most coveted at the Bureau of Customs.

* * *

His superiors in Manila could not force Bibit to vacate his Subic post because he had 30 or so RAM members acting as his bodyguards, all are armed, according to my sources at customs.

The same armed men are with Bibit at the Port of Cebu.

These men are not organic members of the customs bureau. They are paid and fed by Bibit from his own pocket.

Now, where does Bibit get all the money to pay his 30 armed bodyguards?

* * *

Sgt. Paciano Hernandez of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) should be punished severely for beating up Jimson Arnasan, 20, a helper of a funeral parlor.

Arnasan was hospitalized for six days due to the beating. Hernandez punched and kicked him unconscious. Even when he already vomited blood, the Palace guard kept on mauling him.

The poor guy's fault was bumping Hernandez's owner-type jeep which was being repaired in a shop where Arnasan works part time. Arnasan was asked to step on the jeep's accelerator by the shop's mechanic while it was being checked. Not knowing how to drive, he thought that the jeep would not lurch forward when he stepped on the gas.

* * *

Okay, it was Arnasan's fault as much as the shop mechanic who entrusted the sergeant's jeep to him.

But must Hernandez maul him?

To beat the ignorant man in the eyes of the law, Hernandez had also filed charges of damage to property against Arnasan while he was at the hospital.

Apparently, the charges would be a leverage in the event that Arnasan files a case for serious physical injuries against the sergeant.

5 killed in Quezon City

FIVE PEOPLE were killed in separate incidents in Quezon City over the All Souls' weekend.

Ronaldo De Leon, 27, of 26 Geronimo St., Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City, was found dead from several gunshot wounds in the body at 6:20 p.m. along Sarmiento Ext., Barangay Sta. Monica.

Residents said that they heard a series of gunshots shortly before De Leon's body was found.

An hour later, Jimmy Ong, 58, was gunned down in front of his house at 130 Road 20, Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City.

Police said that Ong had just alighted from a taxicab in front of his house when an unidentified man approached him and shot him at close range.

Ong, who is said to have undergone drug rehabilitation, was shot once in the back of his head, police said.

The suspect fled after the shooting.

A Halloween party turned bloody for tricycle driver Rodelio Celoza, 22 of 2528 Area-B, Nawasa Line, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Celoza was in a Halloween party at a basketball court along St. Michael Street, Barangay Holy Spirit at about 8 p.m. when Emerito dela Cruz, 24, of 165 Area-7, Nawasa line, allegedly appeared and confronted the him over an undetermined issue.

Police said that the confrontation turned into a heated argument which ended when Dela Cruz pulled out a knife and stabbed Celoza.

Dela Cruz fled after the stabbing, but barangay watchmen later arrested him.

A night of drinking tragically ended for security guard Gilbert Cejo.

Cejo, 47, a security guard of the Rapid Security Agency and a resident of 23 Ferna Road, Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City, was inside the VINHS KTV bar on 341-D Manggahan St., Barangay San Antonio on Thursday night with his brother-in-law Reynaldo Cejo.

The two left the bar 11:30 p.m. and were waiting for a ride home in front of the establishment when a certain Rey approached the them and stabbed Gilberto.

Gilberto was brought to the Quezon City General Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. The suspect fled after the stabbing, police said.

Jeepney driver Dario Andena, 41, of Block 6, Lot 3, Montalban Heights, San Jose, Montalban, was yesterday shot dead just as he was about to ply his route.

Police said that Andena was sitting inside his jeepney parked along IBP Road corner Litex Road, Commonwealth Avenue and reading a newspaper at about 7 a.m. when an unidentified man appeared, pulled out a gun and shot Andena at close range.

The suspect fled while Andena was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

Terrorist plot uncovered ...

From page A23

districts in Metro Manila were ordered to go on high alert to prevent terrorist attacks.

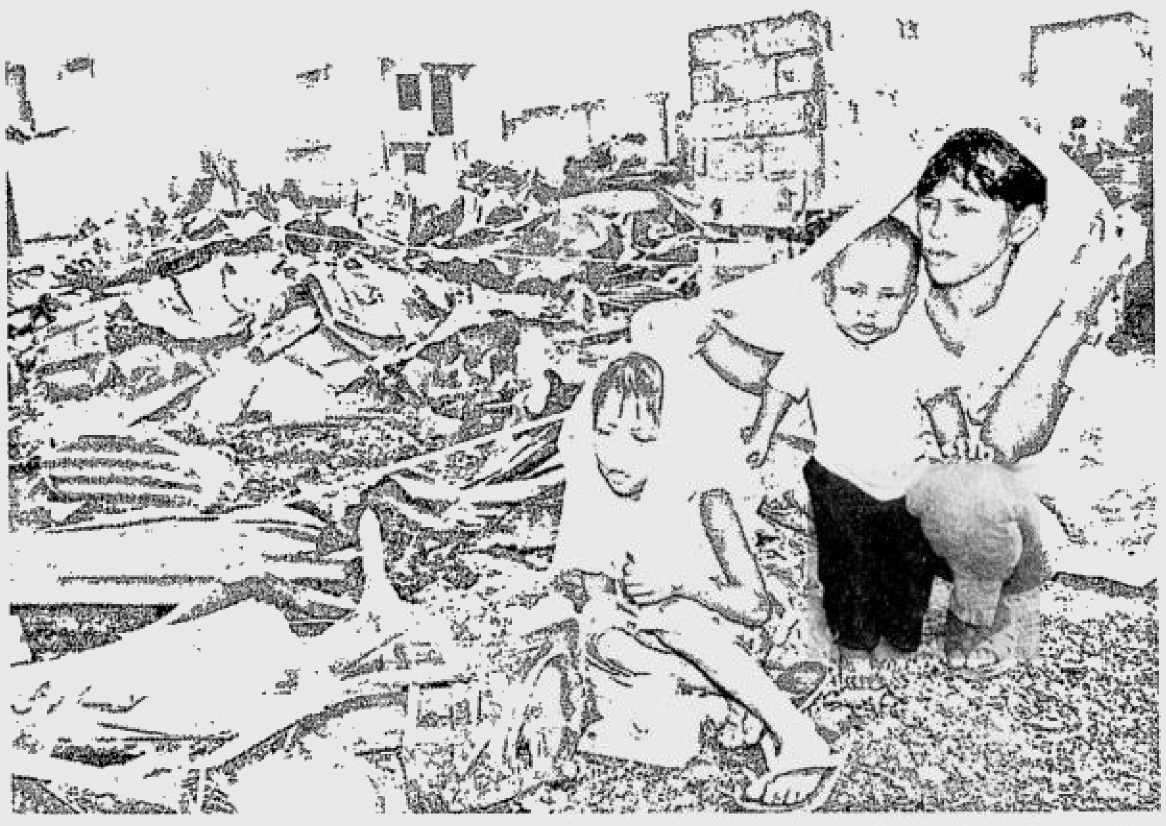
"We are taking all precautions just in case," said the official.

Another intelligence source confirmed the report of the intercepted cell phone conversation, adding that there are at least five other Abu Muslim Al-Ghazi in their files.

"This seems to be a favorite name," said the source. "Three other Abu Muslim al-Ghazi are in jail but there are two others still out there."

Since the Balintawak bombing last Oct. 18, the NCRPO has issued an order for high alert.

But Philippine National Police chief Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane has denied that Muslim terrorists from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were planning to bomb the metropolis after the holiday break.



A MOTHER and her two children stand beside what once had been their house hours after a fire razed their neighborhood in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig which left 2 of their neighbors dead and hundreds of families homeless.

ERIC ARAZAS

Mechanic stabbed dead in Tondo

By Philip C. Tubeza

MECHANIC Eduardo F. Teodora, 47, was stabbed dead by his own neighbor on the eve of All Saints' Day in Manila.

Suspect Jeolossy Sison, 26, of 783 Int. 15, Maria Guizon St. in Gagalangin Tondo, had a quarrel with Teodora's son and even threatened to wipe out his family, police said.

Teodora, also of 783 Int. 20, Maria Guizon St. died from several stab wounds at the Tondo Medical Center, said Detective Eduardo C. Cabal, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

He added that suspect Sison is in police custody.

Police said that the stabbing happened at 11:45 a.m. along M. Guizon Street.

Teodora's son Rafael had quarreled with Sison for a still unknown reason, and Sison had harbored a grudge against the family and even threatened to kill them all.

On Wednesday, Sison confronted Teodora about Rafael and they had a heated argument, police said.

At the height of their altercation, Sison pulled out a knife and repeatedly stabbed Teodora, police said.

Sison escaped after the stabbing, but he later surrendered to investigators at the WPD Station 7, Cabal said.

Police are now preparing murder charges against Sison.

Survivors identify bus bomber

From page A23

in the custody of Manila policemen.

"Of course, that is what they'll say," Agunod said. "That's their style."

Castro said that there is another man also named Jerry Minalang who is living in the South known and has been identified as a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He said Southcom officials had confirmed to Velasco that the Minalang they know is still in their area.

"I was told by Gen. Velasco that he was told by some people in Southcom that Minalang is still there."

Castro said that during interrogation by WPD policemen, Minalang had admitted that he was a former battalion commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"But when he was turned over to us, he refused to do anymore talking," Castro said.

Minalang is also allegedly on probation for drug charges.

Pasig fire victims need food, clothes

By Nelson Flores

PASIG City Mayor Soledad Eusebio yesterday appealed for help for the more than 1,000 people who lost their homes in a fire Thursday night that hit Barangay Bulante Uno and Barangay Palacio.

Eusebio said that the victims need food, blankets and clothes.

She said that the fire victims were evacuated to the Rizal High School Annex building in Barangay Palatiw.

Nobody was reported injured in the blaze, but at least 600 houses were razed in the fire that broke out shortly after 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Eusebio also ordered an investigation into reports that some fire victims pointed their guns at the firemen to force them to spray water to their burning homes.

Snatcher kills cohort

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SUSPECTED snatcher on Thursday stabbed dead his long-time cohort in Pasay City during a heated argument over a stolen necklace.

Victim Jaime Ramos, 39, was walking along Apelo Street near his house in Malibay when Reynaldo "Wago" Longcop, 27, stabbed him at 6:45 p.m., police said.

Ramos was wounded in the stomach and died in a nearby hospital.

Suspect Longcop escaped.

SPO3 Eduardo Juarbal said Longcop confronted Ramos over the proceeds from the sale of a gold necklace that they had snatched from a victim three weeks ago.

He said that Longcop stabbed Ramos after the latter refused to give him his share of the proceeds.

Compromise seen on Mehan issue

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute has the final say on whether the Mehan Gardens will remain a park or become the site of the new campus of the City Colleges of Manila.

, The so-called "gardens of contention" is a thorny issue in the the NHI's relationship with the city government, but the Heritage Conservation Society expects this to be resolved soon.

HCS development officer Carlos Celdran told the INQUIRER that the NHI and Manila City Hall are moving toward a compromise.

"The NHI may allow the construction of the school as long as the trees would be preserved and that future archeological excavations would be permitted," Celdran said in an interview.

Last Aug. 14, the NHI declared the Mehan a national historical landmark, ending the debate about its historical significance.

Laws forbid the alteration of any national shrine, monument and landmark which the NHI has classified as historical unless there is written permission from the NHI chair.

Celdran said he has seen the design of the new building which architect J. Antonio Mendoza presented.

The plans, which are being scrutinized by the two parties, would only remove the trees that would be in the future building's "footprints."

The entire ground floor, Celdran added, will be kept vacant and temporary paved with brick so archeologists can make excavations anytime.

The HCS official added that before the building is constructed, the Mehan will first be restored according to its original design in 1858 when it was put up as the city's first botanical and zoological garden.

To be reconstructed are the ornate walls named after famous Filipino and foreign scientists.

The school edifice has been designed along the neoclassical lines of the City Hall building, Celdran added.

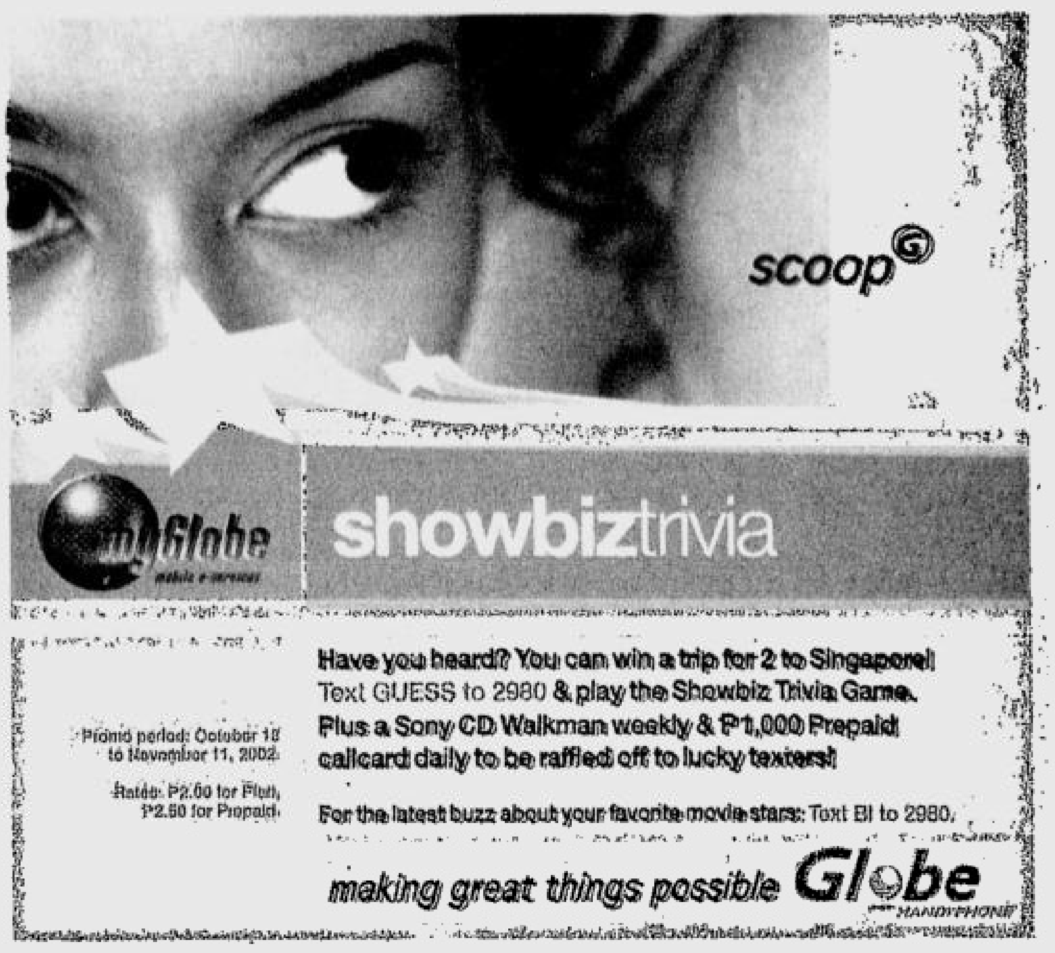
The NHI has always maintained that the Mehan is historical, citing the marker installed in 1934 by the NHI's predecessor agency, the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee.

But this was not recognized by City Hall when it approved last year the construction of the Park 'N Ride complex and the new City College of Manila on the park.

Due to numerous complaints, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources stopped both projects in August 2001.

But with City Hall's backing, the construction of the the Park 'N Ride proceeded and the parking facility opened four months later.

The Park 'N Ride contractors were fined P50,000 a day for defying the DENR order. The penalty was pegged at P7.5 million as of February this year.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Muntinlupa dad sees no letup in 'hellish' city traffic

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HELLISH traffic in Muntinlupa will continue until the Alabang viaduct has been fully restored, a city councilor warned yesterday.

Ike dela Rea, chair of the city council's Committee on Public Order, Security and Safety, blamed the Philippine National Construction Corp. for the heavy traffic at the Alabang interchange and the conflict between truckers and the local government over the city's truck ban.

"The PNCC really has to move," Dela Rea said in Filipino. "We need total rehabilitation of the viaduct."

In a public hearing last Tuesday, the councilor said close to 100 truckers have asked the city council to scrap its ordinance banning trucks at the Alabang interchange between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily.

The truckers, he said, want the local government to adopt the policy of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority banning trucks from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Dela Rea said he and other councilors could not decide on the request until the city council's session next Thursday.

The PNCC is currently repairing the Alabang viaduct after motorists expressed fear that the 24-year-old structure is about to collapse.

Included in the rehabilitation plan is the widening of the Alabang interchange which is located below the viaduct.

But Dela Rea said the road widening plan would not necessarily ease traffic congestion in the area and might not convince the city council to lift the truck ban.

Army officer in hot water for stealing a kiss

By Agnes E. Donato

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has recommended the filing of abuse against chastity charges against a lieutenant colonel for allegedly making passes at one of his female subordinates last year.

Lt. Col Norman Oliver Febiar, assigned to the Command General and Staff College in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, was accused of sexually harrasing a woman planning officer of the Department of National Defense.

Records showed that in Sept. 2001, a Director Joji Aragon introduced the victim to Febiar who at that time needed help in writing an official report.

The woman said Febiar had offered her compensation for the work she would be doing, but she declined "out of respect for Aragon."

She said that when she and Febiar were working on the paper on Nov. 16, 2001 about 11:30 p.m., the army officer suddenly asked her for a kiss.

Thinking the official was only joking, she distanced herself and left the room.

Some 30 minutes later, she told Febiar she would just finish her work at her dormitory room and that she would just borrow the laptop computer of a Major Regencia.

Febiar however followed her to the major's room. Once inside, Febiar allegedly closed the door, held her face with both his hands and tried to kiss her.

She said she was able to break free from Febiar who, instead of leaving her alone, later asked her to sleep with him.

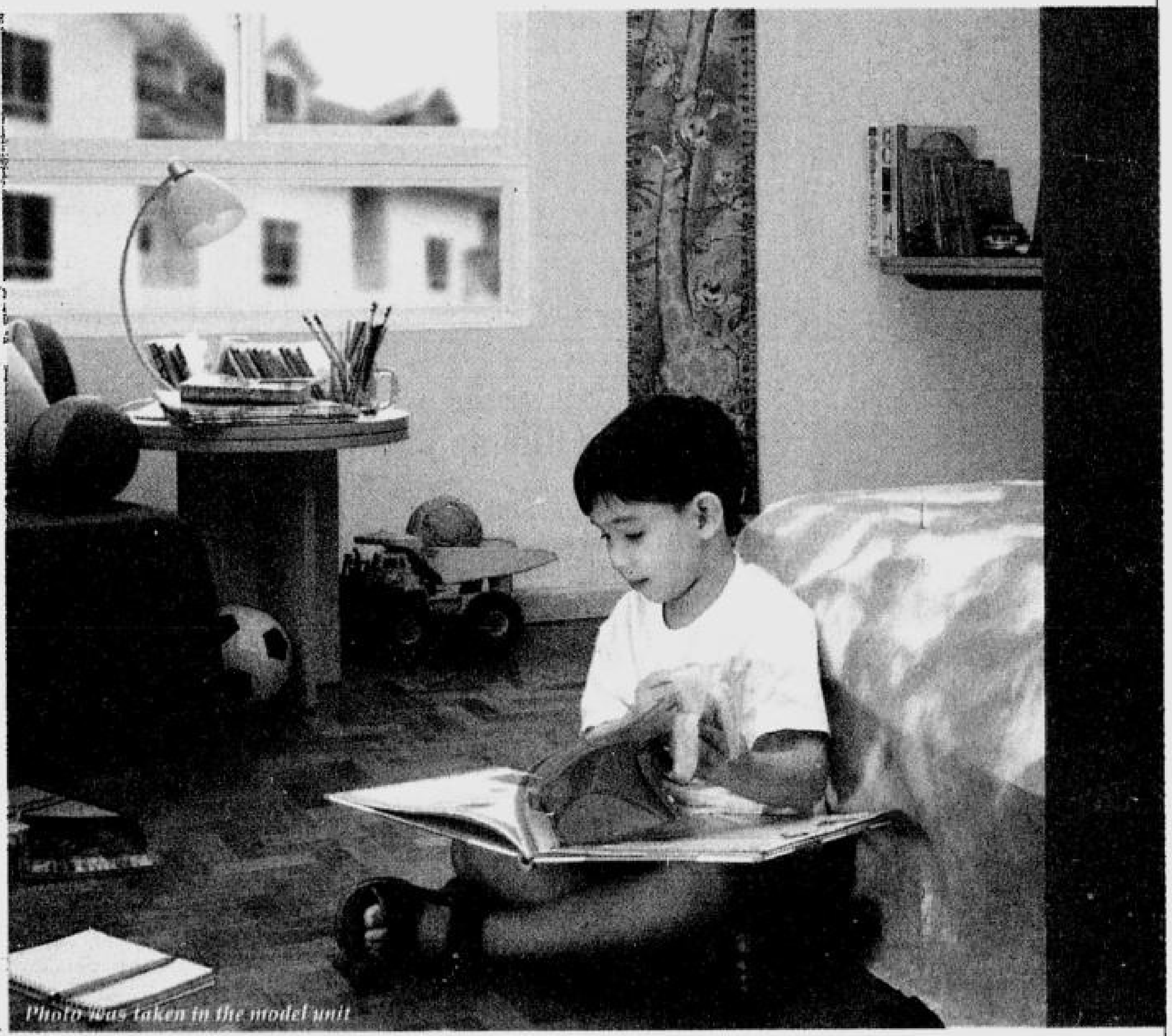
The woman filed her complaint five days after the incident. Febiar was reportedly sent a copy of the affidavit but was not able to get it.

As a result, the case had to be resolved based solely on the complainant's affidavit.

In his resolution, Ombudsman investigator Joselito Bacolor found credence in the complainant's allegation.

So your kids can spend more time studying (and less time in traffic).

MONTGOMERY
PLACE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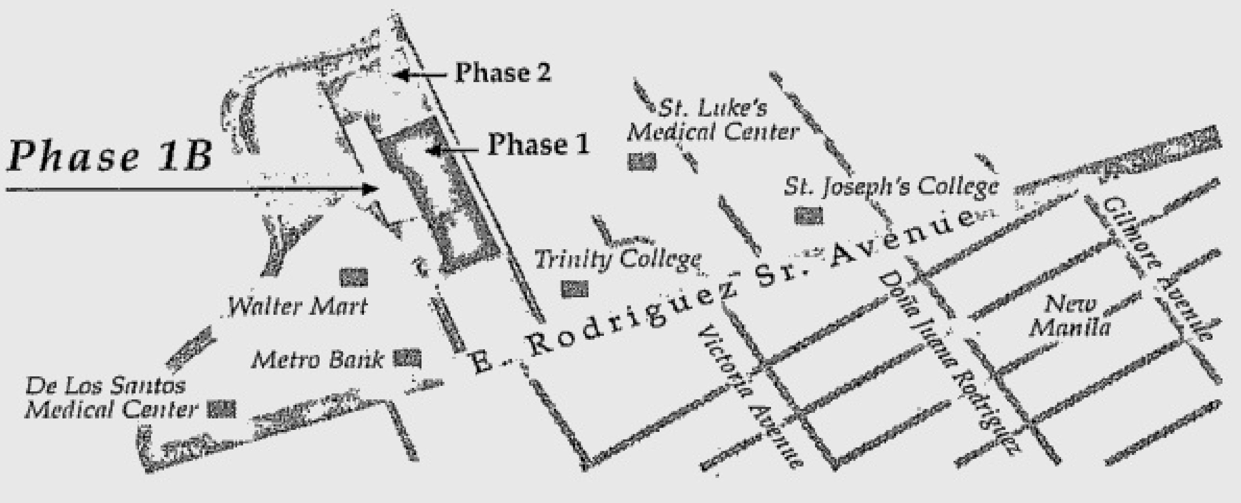

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'I will never forget you'

By Philip Tubeza

FOUR years after her four-year-old daughter was killed in a fire that razed an orphanage in Paco, Manila, Lita Patangan-Estrada, 42, yesterday was finally able to light a candle on her daughter's grave and put a marker on it.

"I will never forget you," Estrada vowed before the grave of her daughter Grace. "I love you!"

Grace was one of 28 people, 21 of whom were children, killed in a fire that razed the Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas orphanage in Paco, Manila on December 1998.

Until recently, the children's remains were unidentified and were buried in a mass grave.

But through DNA testing, 18 of the 21 victims were finally identified, according to Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

He said the identification of the victims would boost the chances of criminal cases filed against officials of City Hall and Damas De Filipinas before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Charged with graft were Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, his wife Evelina, two other city officials, Aurora Recina, former Commission on Human Rights chair, Court of Appeals Justice Corona Somera and 16 officers of Damas De Filipinas. They are also facing charges for violating the building and fire codes.

"Finally, we now know where to light our candles," said Estrada. "During the past All Saints' Days, we just lighted candles (on the mass grave)."

Estrada's daughter Grace would have turned 7 last Sept. 30.

"She would be studying already if she were alive today," Estrada said.

Addressing her dead daughter, Estrada said: "Grace, you know you're my inspiration in life; I tried to work so hard so that you could study."

The other victims whose remains had been identified are John Agravante, Felipe Jimenez, Marvin Pangilinan, Jorge Cortis, Danre Desder, Jaymar Oloverio, Jestoni Cortis, Ralph Lanz Tubiera, Jeffrey Jimenez, Gene Genesis Tubiera, Deeveejay Fracisco, Jomay Callao, John Isaiah Balasbas, Michael Hora, Edwin Zambrano, John Mark Bunque, and Nica Dianne Francisco.

Jimenez said forensic experts from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine have been conducting DNA tests on the victims' remains during the last three years.

VACC members and the victims' parents on Wednesday put paper markers on the niches of the children in a 500-square-meter lot reserved for orphans and young mendicants in North Cemetery, Manila.

The orphanage compound, whose earliest structure was built in 1913, included a three-story main building, nursery and two cottages for orphans and staff.

Working parents in the neighborhood had left their children in the compound when they went to work on the day of the fire.

MANDALUYONG Mayor Benhur Abalos leads city police officials in submitting urine samples for drug testing. VAL HANDUMON

Antipolo mayor bags anti-drug award

ANTIPOLO City Mayor Lito Gatlabayan led the recipients of the annual Bayani Kontra Droga Awards given by dzEC Eagle Broadcasting network.

Gatlabayan was given the award for his pioneering effort in implementing the provisions of the New Comprehensive Drug Act. He was the first mayor in Metro Manila to require the implementation of mandatory drug tests among local government employees.

The Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga was named most distinguished non-government organization in the fight against drugs. Kill Droga has expanded its membership to 566,788 and aims to multiply the government's assets through grass root organizing. It has also started the revolutionary Private Eye Program, which enjoins citizens to report drug related activities in their community.

DrugCheck Philippines Inc. was named as the most responsible private company. Its programs Campus Crusade Against Drugs, the Alis Droga sa Barangay, and Trabaho Laban sa Droga have significantly contributed to the public's victory against drug abuse.

In a statement, DrugCheck said that it would increase its participation in the government's all-out war against drugs.

Half-staff for the famous dead

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City Council last Tuesday approved a resolution requesting the mayor to order the lowering of the national flag to half-staff whenever a former or current city government official passes away.

The aldermen, in Resolution No. 4965, wants the flag to fly at half-staff throughout the city whenever a former or current mayor, vice mayor, councilor, or a senior city official dies.

Arlene Koa, author of the resolution, said flags traditionally fly at half-staff when a national government official dies.

But this is not the case when a city official dies, said the 1st district councilor.

She said the lowering of the flag is meant to express the city's sympathy and extend its condolences to the the official's bereaved family.

Under the resolution, the mayor will be empowered to order the lowering of the flag for a specific period.

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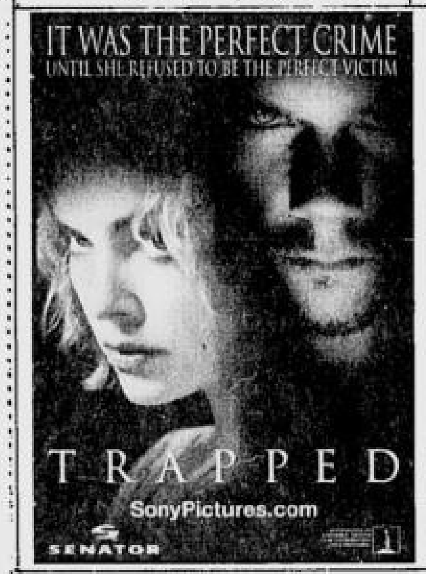

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But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

The Action & Suspense begin NOV. 6!

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SINGSING NI LOLA
Ali 2	JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
Ali 3	RED DRAGON
Ali 4	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Ali 5	BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
Ali 6	NINE MORNING
Ali 7	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
Farmers 2	SINGSING NI LOLA

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2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA	10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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GHOST SHIP R18 12:20,2:10,4:05, 6:00,7:55,9:50	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 11:00,1:10,3:30, 5:50,8:10,10:30

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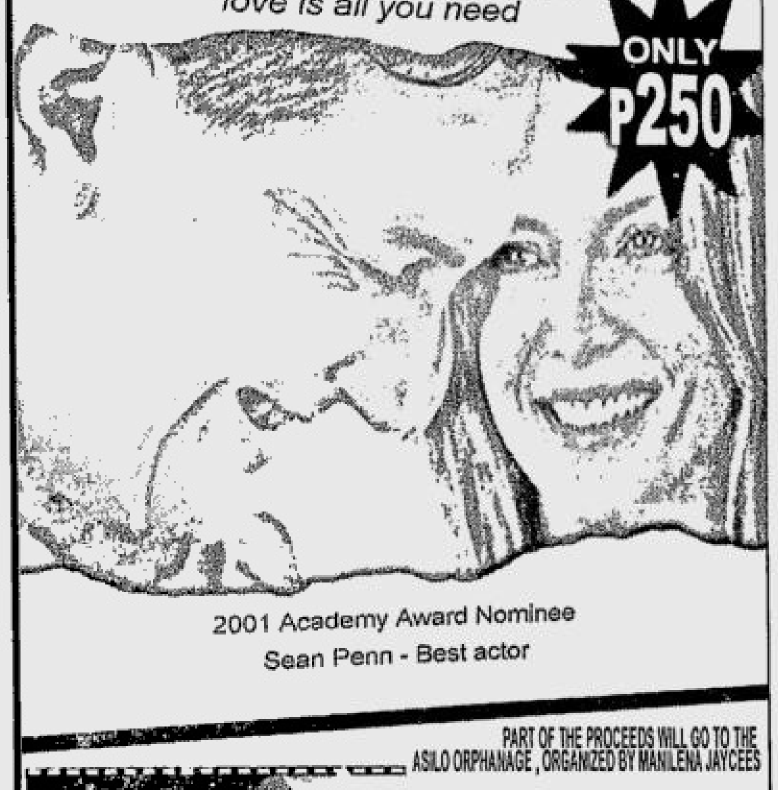

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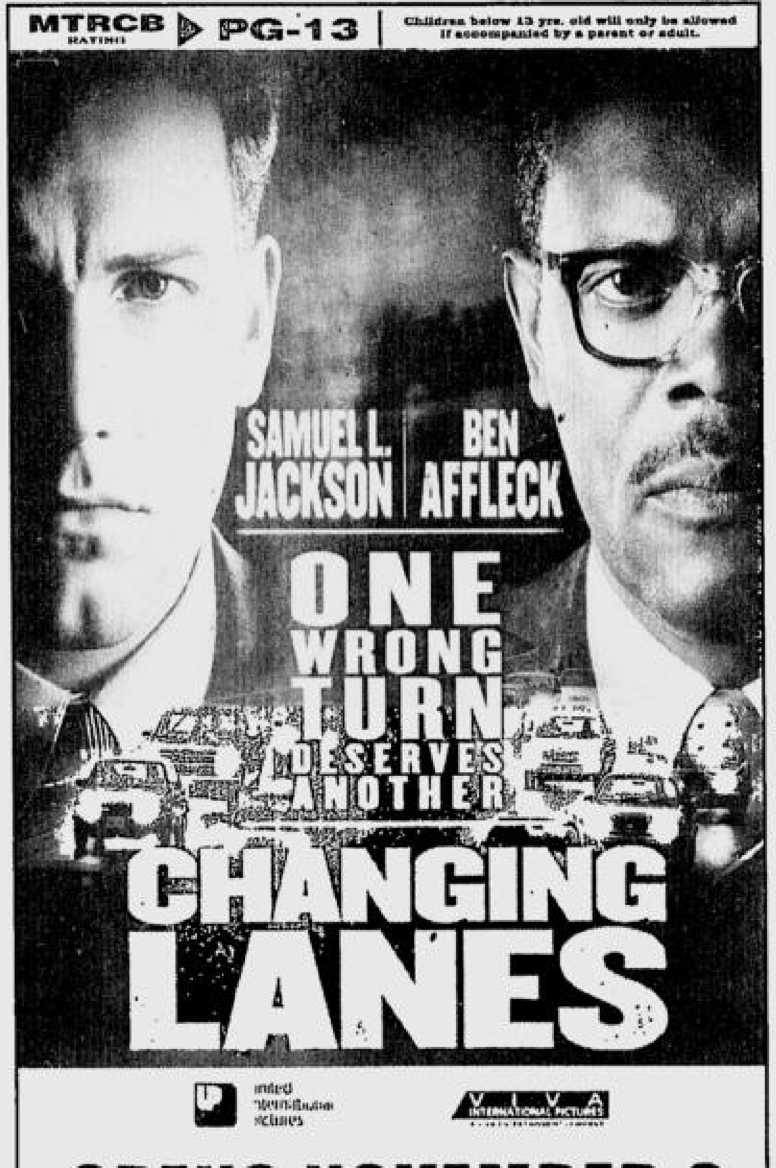

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2 ranking PUP officials accused of creating '540' ghost positions

By Volt Contreras

A PROFESSOR of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines has filed criminal complaints against two top PUP officials for allegedly creating "540 ghost positions" for which the government appropriated P87 million last year.

Zenaida Pia, a political science professor and former member of the state university's Board of Regents, sued PUP President Zenaida Carague and Vice President for Finance Camela Perez.

In a 7-page complaint filed with the Ombudsman, Pia asked the anti-graft agency to take action against the two for falsification of public documents, misappropriation of public funds, or possibly plunder.

Pia told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that this was the "15th complaint" she had lodged against Carague since February 2001. She added the rest of the complaints are still pending with the Ombudsman.

She said she did so partly in her capacity as "deputized graft officer" representing the Public Government Employees Association, a designation she got from former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Pia is also the current corporate secretary of the Public Sector Compensation Review Panel, created during the Aquino administration.

Pia accused Carague and Perez of conspiring to get the Department of Budget and Management to grant PUP P87.05 million in allocation for what turned out to be "540 ghost positions of academic and administrative personnel" for 2001.

Of this figure, 375 were teaching positions from instructors to professors; four for "deceased" professors; and 13 slots for professors who were already either retired or resigned.

Such irregularities, Pia said, "could not have been caused by ignorance; rather the same is a malicious, deliberate and well-planned sting operation designed to obtain from the government what is not actually due in the amount of P87 million."

"While one or two...positions may be reasonably explained as an oversight, the same cannot be said of 540 positions because it stretches credulity to the breaking point and defies human understanding."

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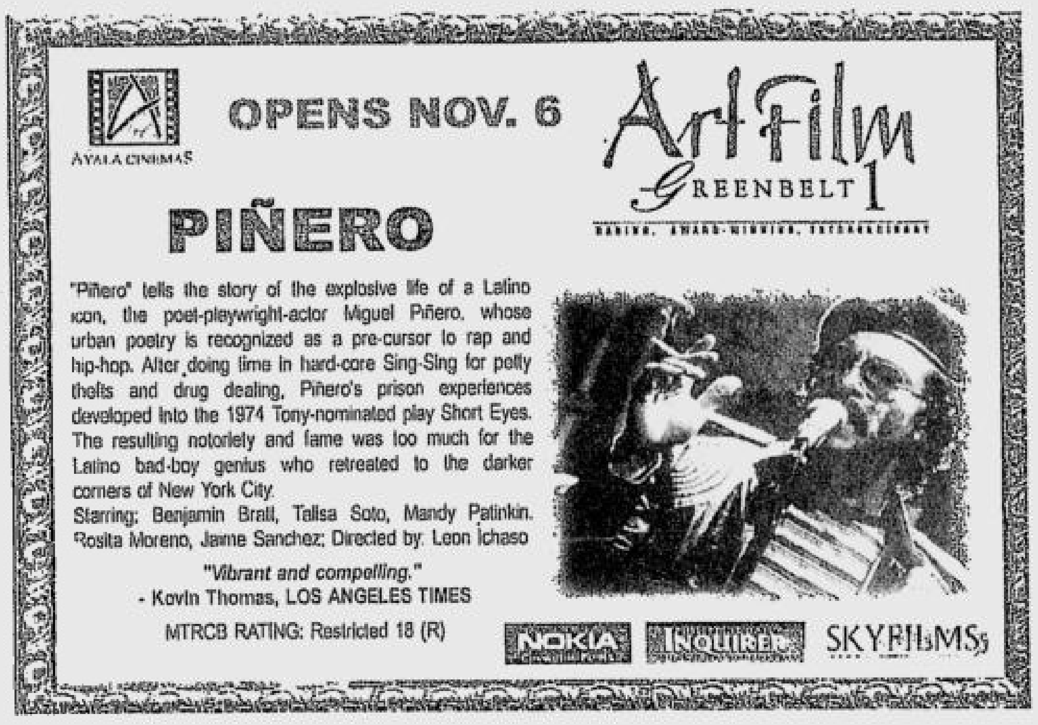
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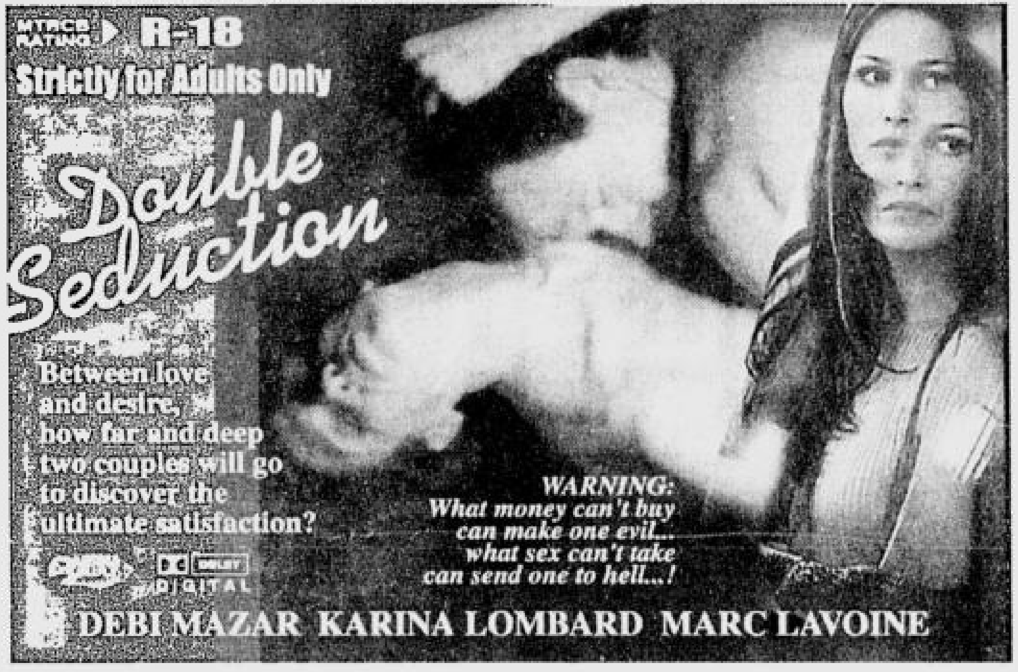
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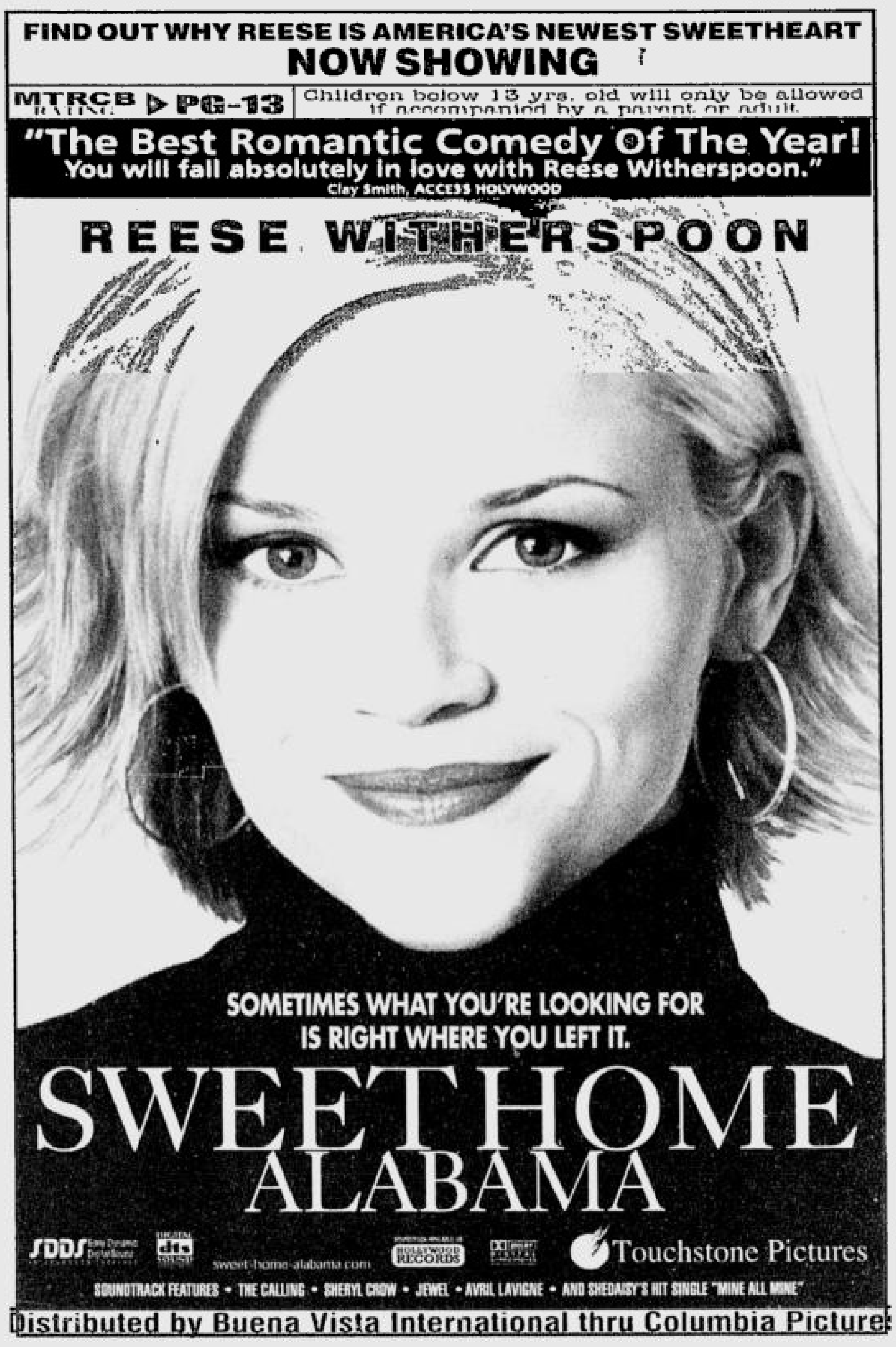
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SINGSING NI LOLA	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	RED DRAGON
	SWEET HOME ALABAMA			
GHOST SHIP	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF		RED DRAGON 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2

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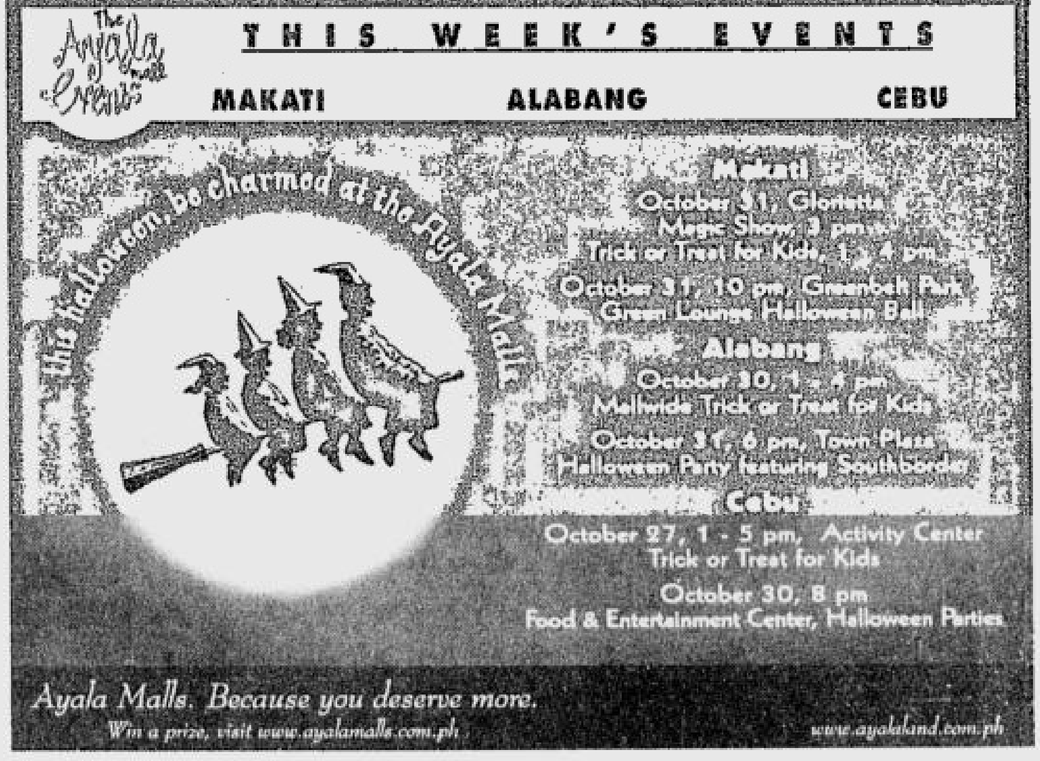
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Atienza wants P5.8B for city dev't in 2003

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has proposed for 2003 a P5.8-billion "development budget," which he said will be used to improve the city in line with his Buhayin ang Maynila project.

Atienza said public facilities that are up for improvement include major thoroughfares, commercial areas, plazas, parks, playgrounds and health centers.

The 2003 executive budget amounts to P5.835 billion, which is 5.5 percent, or P2 million, higher than the budget for the current year.

The mayor said P532 million has already been allocated for capital outlay in next year's budget, including 20 percent of the community development fund.

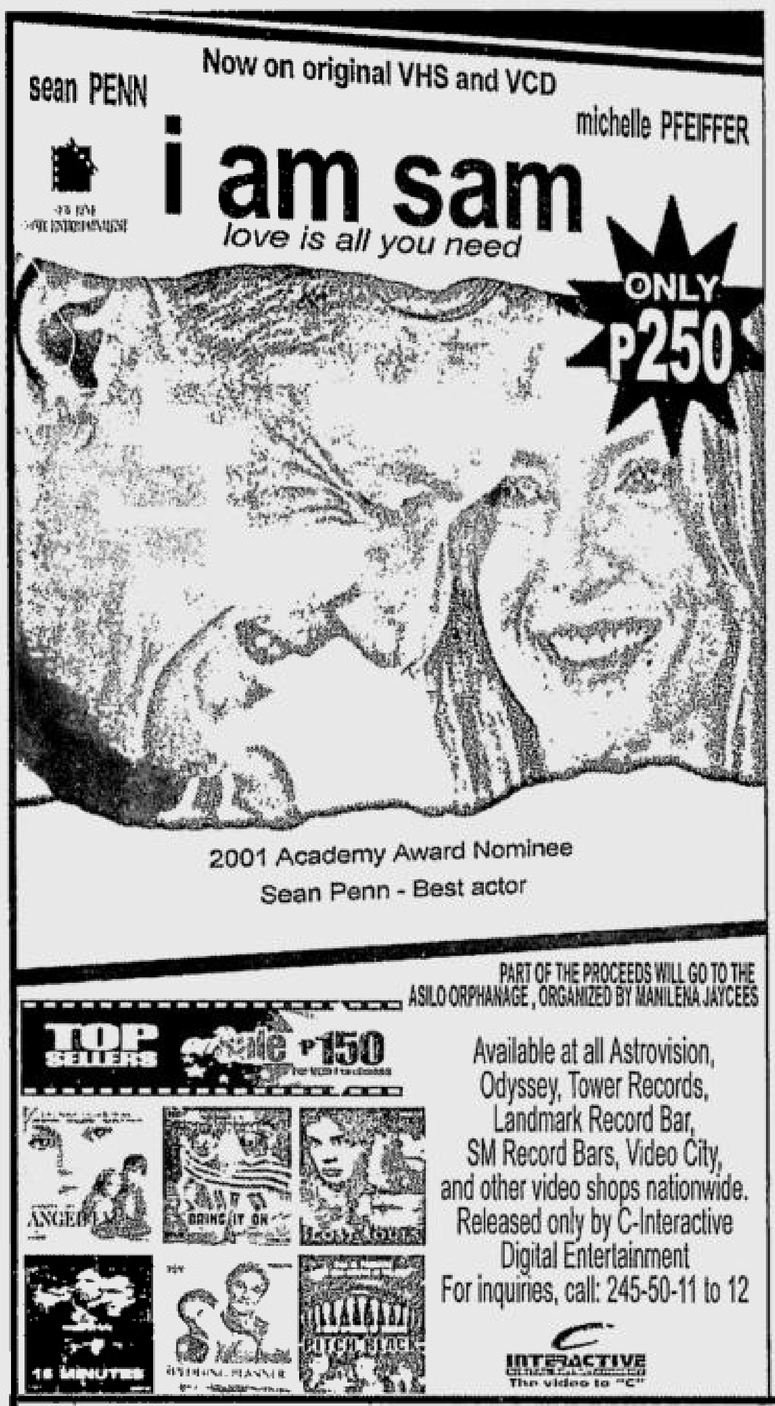
This will be supplemented by P471 million in unused credit from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

"We intend to accelerate the pace of development work (to) spur the private sector to further invest in the city," he said.

The more Manila enhances its infrastructure, he said, the more attractive the city becomes to investors.

Atienza said his administration is now trying to develop Quiapo and turn it into something like the Malate-Ermita area.

This will be followed by the revival of Manila's old downtown with the redevelopment of Rizal Ave., Recto Ave. and Quezon Blvd.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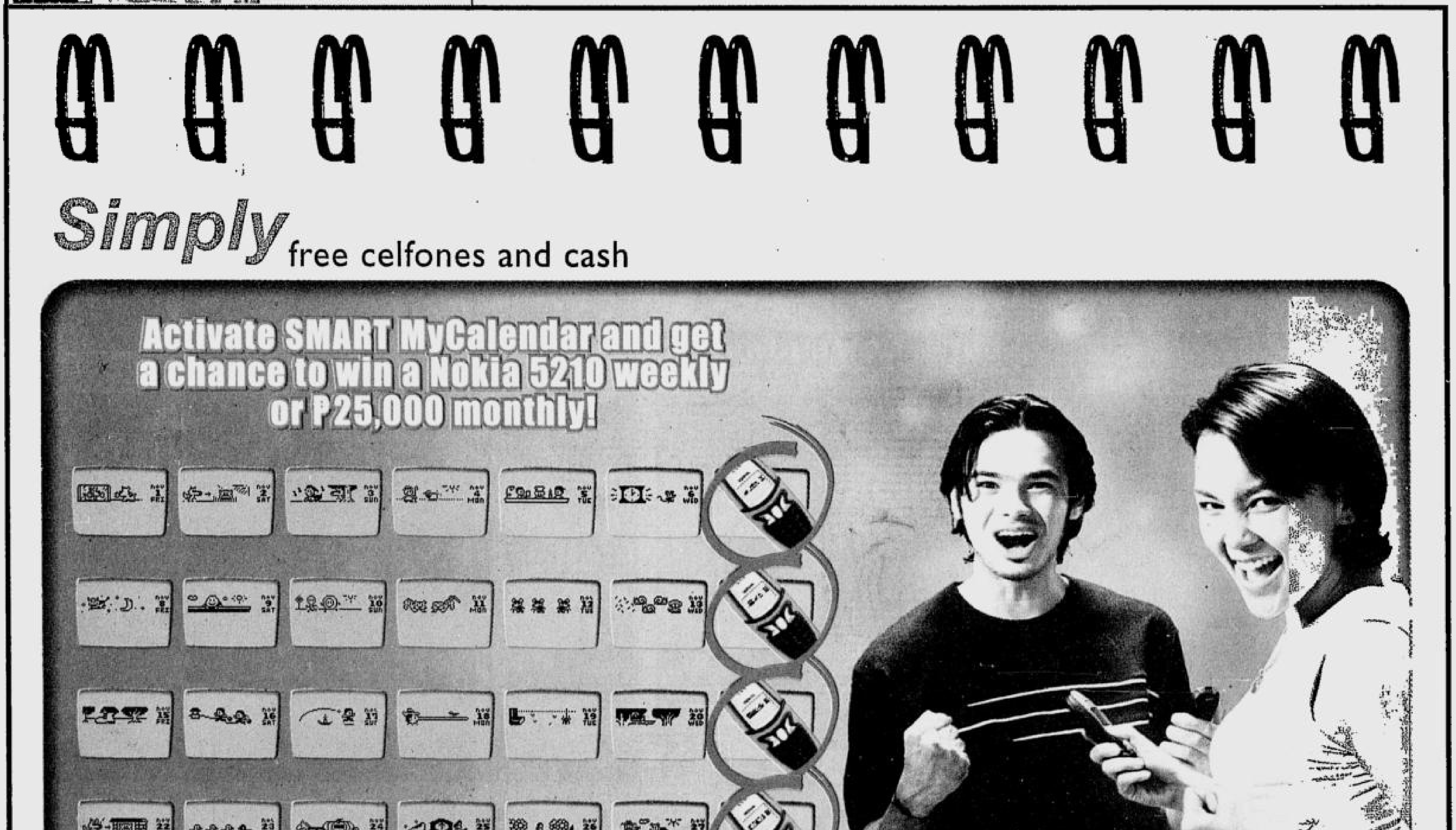
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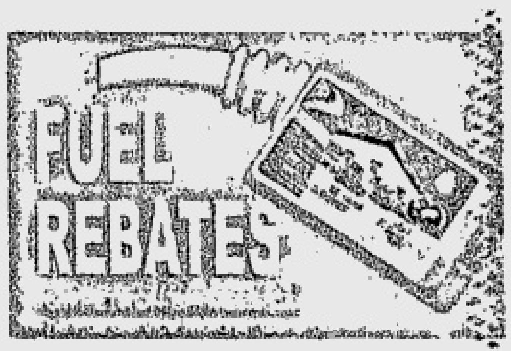

JP Morgan wants out of Bayantel

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN banking giant JP Morgan Chase & Co., another minority investor in Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp., is expected to require Bayantel parent firm Benpres Holdings Corp. to buy out at least P350 million ($6.7 million) worth of its investments in the cash-strapped telecom unit.

Company sources said that Benpres was expecting to receive a notice from JP Morgan Chase any time now as the put-option provision fell due last month.

This was in line with the put option on Bayantel guaranteed by Benpres under a shareholders agreement signed in 1995, when Bayantel was an upstart company breaking into the demonopolized telecommunication industry.

Another minority shareholder, the Asian Infrastructure Fund which is controlled by the American Investment Group, had already served notice last week that it would require Benpres to redeem shares worth at least $45.4 million.

JP Morgan Chase, for its part, accounts for a much smaller portion of the put option guaranteed by Benpres. The original contracting party which invested the initial $6.7 million in 1995 was Chase Manhattan Bank, which later merged with JP Morgan to become JP Morgan Chase, the biggest corporate bank in the United States.

Benpres, for its part, has recognized only up to $52 million worth of obligations under the put option for Bayantel.

In the case of AIF, it is claiming a higher number of shares and a higher price than the $45.4 million recognized by Benpres. There were additional equity infusions from various shareholders after 1995 and AIF also wanted Benpres to redeem those additional investments.

At any rate, Benpres has said the only option to address these obligations would be to restructure in line with the balance sheet management plan drafted by financial advisor Credit Suisse First Boston.

Both AIF and Chase originally invested in Bayantel with the expectation that an exit mechanism would be readily available because Bayantel had planned to become a publicly listed company. But Bayantel, saddled with about $477 million in total debts, was badly hit by the peso freefall arising from the Asian currency turmoil in 1997, derailing the initial public offering plan.

In lieu of the exit mechanism through an IPO, the fallback of both AIF and JP Morgan Chase was to press Benpres to redeem their shares.

Benpres is seeking to restructure about $600 million in total debts, of which 86 percent are in dollars.

Including the put option in Bayantel, Benpres is burdened with $407.8 million worth of subsidiary-related obligations in the form of guarantees and put options. Bayantel accounts for the biggest bulk of guaranteed obligations worth $218.9 million, of which $166.8 million represented convertible preferred shares while the rest consisted of the put option.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila North Tollways Corp. accounted for $165 million and $23.9 million, respectively, of the subsidiary debts guaranteed by Benpres.

Benpres has defaulted on interest payments on its long-term commercial papers and Eurobonds since June this year but had said it would have sufficient cash to resume payments starting December this year.

Gov't woos big Taiwanese firm to invest in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MANILA Economic and Cultural Office is wooing the Formosa group, a diversified conglomerate in Taiwan, to tap the Philippines for the packaging requirements of its semiconductor business.

Meco reported that it has been in discussions with top officials of Formosa's subsidiary, Nanya Technology Corp., to subcontract part of its packaging requirements for its computer chips to the Philippines. Nanya's packaging needs are currently served by providers in Taiwan and Singapore.

Nanya is one of Taiwan's leading manufacturers of memory chips or DRAM and DDR and it operates two wafer fab facilities with a combined capacity of 73,000 8-inch wafer units a month.

Meco is hoping to take a slice of Nanya's packaging requirements specially with its plan to put up a new wafer fab plant, which will start construction later this month.

The new wafer fab plant, which will churn out 12-inch wafers, is a joint venture with Infineon. The new plant will boost Nanya's output by 20,000 wafers a month starting the fourth quarter next year.

The Formosa group is one of the major Taiwanese business groups that have an investment in the Philippines. It recently signed a partnership agreement with Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) for a $90 million co-generation power facility in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Meco has stepped up its promotion of the Philippines as an investment site for Taiwanese businessmen following the Taiwan government's Go South policy aimed at diversifying its overseas investments concentrated heavily in mainland China.

Meco is aiming to generate $1 billion in foreign direct investments from Taiwan over the next three years with its aggressive marketing campaign emphasizing the Philippines' proximity to Taiwan and English-speaking workforce.

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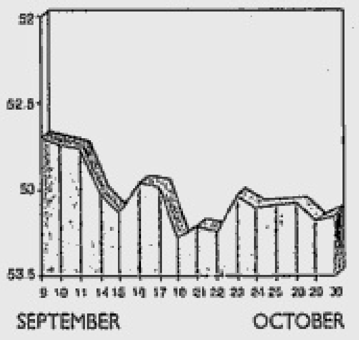

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As of 5 p.m., Oct.30, 2002

¥ 122.48= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 31, 2002

GOLD: $316.50-317.00

per ounce Hong Kong. Oct. 31, 2002

Easycall to proceed with paging shutdown

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. said it would still push through with the shutdown of its paging operations at the end of this month despite a case filed against it with the National Telecommunications Commission seeking to prevent it from doing so.

Cebcom Management Corp., Easycall's agent in Cebu, had filed a complaint with the NTC in July, seeking an inquiry into the company's shutdown of its paging business in the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

But Easycall chief information officer Leon Dy said in a telephone interview that the company had all the necessary approvals from the NTC when it shut down its paging business in these areas.

He added that Easycall informed its customers of its shutdown plans at least 30 days before the formal announcement was made in February.

For its remaining paging operations in Manila and Cebu, which would likewise be closed down by month's end, Dy said proper approvals were also secured from the NTC and appropriate information was disseminated to subscribers.

"We notified the NTC at least 30 days before the planned shutdown. We also wrote letters to our subscribers to inform them. Besides, we had an agreement with Jaspage that they would absorb our existing subscribers who would still want to continue using pagers," he explained.

He said Cebcom was just preventing the total closure of Easycall's paging operations in Cebu to keep from remitting around P14 million in subscribers' fees since 1996.

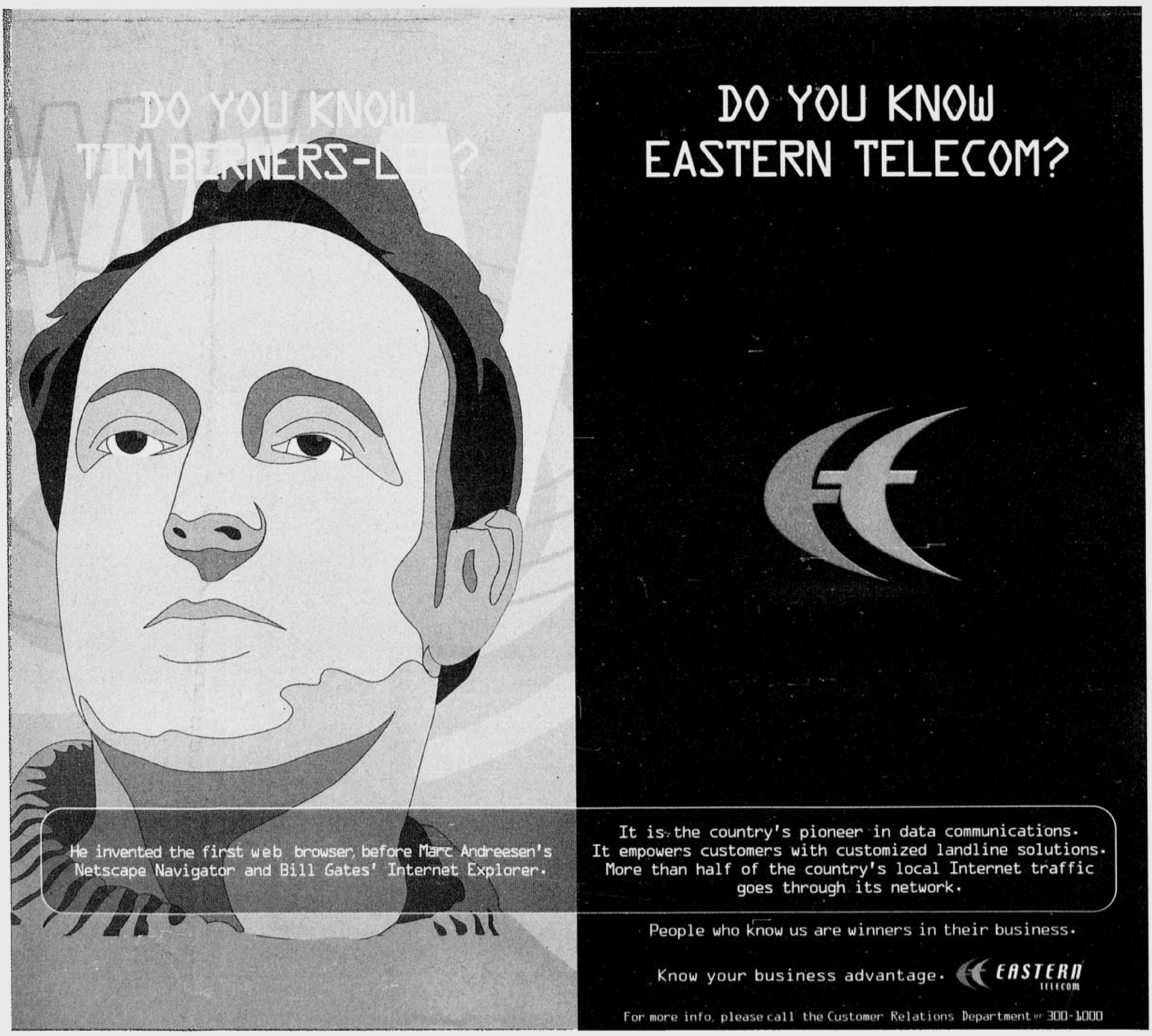
Cebcom, as Easycall's agent in Cebu, was in charge of collecting subscribers' monthly fees.

"We had a very good relationship but they never remitted anything since 1996 and the amount they owe us had ballooned to around P14 million," Dy said.

The NTC on Nov. 5 will be holding the second hearing of the case that Cebcom filed against Easycall.

Despite the case, Dy said clo-

EASYCALL/ B2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Napocor seen junking plan to raise additional $350M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE firm National Power Corp. said it might not push through with the plan to raise additional $350 million in funding this year and would instead resort to cutting costs to keep expenditures within the programmed level.

The amount is on top of Napocor's working capital requirement of $1.5 billion that already includes funding for debt servicing.

Napocor acting president Roland Quilala said in an interview that the power firm would be concentrating on raising the remaining half of $1.5 billion.

"We still have to raise $750 million of the original working capital requirement," Quilala said. "Besides, the additional funding requirements need not be secured within this year."

Napocor needs additional $350 million to cover payments to independent power suppliers, which it had to shoulder after a Malacañang order in May reduced the firm's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) rates by an average of 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Quilala said in an earlier interview that Napocor was securing a $400-million bridge loan from a syndicate of banks led by Citibank NA. This will be used by Napocor for its working capital while it is working on the $500-million bond float slated for this month and a yen-denominated issue worth $250 million. The proceeds from these fund-raising activities will be used to finance the remaining half ($750 million) of this year's funding requirements.

In September, Napocor reported that it had incurred a net loss of about P17.5 billion in the first seven months of the year largely due to decreased sales, the government's decision to reduce the PPCA and the 30-centavo per kilowatthour mandatory rate reduction provided by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

The firm said that the amount meant a 304-percent or P13.1-billion increase compared to last year's net loss of P14.3 billion from January to July.

The seven-month net loss has already exceeded by 70 percent Napocor's net loss of P10.3 billion in 2001.

SBMA creates 15,368 jobs in 9 months

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) created 15,368 jobs from January to September this year, reports from the SBMA labor center showed.

With the new jobs, the freeport's total workforce, including 5,000 workers employed by SBMA and its subsidiary, the Freeport Service Corp. (FSC), has reached 55,420 this year.

Freeport locators, reports said, hired 15,270 new workers from January-September last year.

"The SBMA is holding regular job fairs to help freeport locators find competent and skilled workers, especially from Central Luzon. These are also aimed at boosting the national government's employment generation program," said SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo.

He said the Subic freeport, among the country's top economic zones, continues to generate the biggest employment opportunities.

He said most of the workers come from Olongapo City, Bataan and other towns of Zambales.

Wistron Infocomm Philippines, a subsidiary of Acer computers, remains the biggest single employer in the freeport with about 3,000 workers.

The SBMA posted $1.02 billion in export value for the last nine months, mainly from the strong production output in the manufacturing sector.

The tourism sector also created jobs with the opening of facilities engaged in tourism-related businesses. These include restaurants, souvenir shops and eco-tourism sites like the new Forest Adventure Park that is being developed into a world-class attraction within Subic's lush forests. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PLDT exec says ISP pricing scheme approved by NTC

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is set to raise the issue on the debts of a group of Internet service providers worth of P100 million when it meets the National Telecommunications Commission soon for a case that the same group filed against the phone giant.

Sources said most of the members of Philippine Internet Services Organization (Piso) owed PLDT a combined P100 million, which remained unpaid for almost a year.

The NTC gave PLDT 15 days upon receipt of Piso's complaint to respond to allegations that it was engaged in predatory pricing to kill the country's independent ISPs.

PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo "Butch" Jimenez Jr. said in a statement that the company was ready to face the NTC as it was not doing anything illegal in terms of the pricing of its leased lines.

"PLDT's pricing scheme is not designed to kill or monopolize any industry. PLDT is committed toward providing its customers with the best possible telecommunications service at the most cost-effective price. Our prices also reflect prevailing market dynamics and are filed with and monitored by the NTC," he said.

These leased lines are what ISPs use to deliver their services to their subscribers. Like ordinary phone subscribers, ISPs are charged on a per line basis every month.

The prices of leased lines, according to NTC rules, are deregulated.

The telecommunications giant added that the rates it was charging the ISPs were not in excess of those that the NTC approved. These rates were also stipulated in the contracts that it had with its ISP-clients.

"These rates have been accepted by the ISPs themselves and are covered by contracts where both parties are in agreement with these rates," the company explained.

PLDT also said that its existing ISP-clients could choose other carriers if they were not satisfied with their current arrangements with PLDT.

Jimenez said PLDT had yet to receive a copy of Piso's but added that the company would be responding to the NTC immediately upon receipt of the complaint.

ATI gets ₱600-M HSBC loan

PORT operator Asian Terminals Inc. yesterday secured a new P600-million five-year loan from Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp.

"The proceeds of the loan will be used for financing capital expenditures and refinancing existing debt," ATI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Part of the proceeds will be used in financing ATI's 10-year South Harbor modernization program. In line with the expansion program, ATI is currently building a new passenger terminal to accommodate larger ships at Pier 15 along Manila Bay.

The cost of ATI's expansion plan was placed at about P670 million. It will cover support facilities and equipment.

The South Harbor modernization plan calls for the upgrading of piers, tripling of container yard space and acquisition of new equipment and technology.

ATI operates three other major international seaports in the country on top of its flagship South Harbor in Manila, namely: Port of Batangas, Mariveles Grain Terminal in Bataan and the Port of General Santos in Mindanao.

The company also operates the logistics supply base services for the Malampaya offshore supply base of Shell Philippines Exploration as well as three large logistics centers in Calamba, Laguna, located 55 kilometers south of Manila. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.75	18	18.75	118,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	182,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26.5	27	60,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	407,300
Philippine National Bank	27	28	27	28	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	14,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	16,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1130	1130	1130	1130	150
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	410	397.5	410	89,560
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.8	3.55	3.8	87,000
Piltel	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	1,280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	228	230	226	230	91,080
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15	15	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	19.75	20.25	611,400
Petron Corp.	1.44	1.56	1.44	1.56	1,919,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	272,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	248,200
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	65,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	15,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	157,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	1,436,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.75	4,074,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	81,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	16,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	261,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	637,500
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	74,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	630,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	730,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	161,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.56	0.51	0.56	180,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	58,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.39	2,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	249,900
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	13,575,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	6,830,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.94	2.02	1,521,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.028	0.028	0.02	0.021	4,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	526,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,895,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	100,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	940,900	25,077,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,528,840	220,329,710.00
PRO	31,867,000	93,528,560.00
Mining	1,400,000	254,000.00
OIL	11,000,000	32,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	113,736,740	339,221,495.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	409.50	DOWN 0.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,451.00	UP 4.04
PRO	466.61	UP 3.35
Mining	1,121.54	UP 2.34
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	612.94	DOWN 14.39
Composite	1,048.53	UP 2.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,349

CURRENCIES

Oct. 30, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.016673	1.000000	53.017000
Japan	Yen	0.008257	0.008122	0.430600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583164	1.557200	82.558100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130364	0.128226	6.798200
Switzerland	Franc	0.682423	0.671231	35.586700
Canada	Dollar	0.650338	0.639672	33.913500
Singapore	Dollar	0.574392	0.564972	29.953100
Australia	Dollar	0.565982	0.556700	29.514600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.696890	2.652661	140.636100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271091	0.266645	14.136700
Brunei	Dollar	0.571486	0.562114	29.801600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023485	0.023100	1.224700
UAE	Dirham	0.276812	0.272272	14.435000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983600	52.147500
Argentina	Peso	0.284782	0.280112	14.850700
Brazil	Real	0.265589	0.261233	13.849800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134502	0.132296	7.013900
India	Rupee	0.021045	0.020700	1.097500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267581	0.263193	13.953700
Mexico	New Peso	0.099840	0.098203	5.206400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493794	0.485696	25.750100
Norway	Kroner	0.135248	0.133030	7.052900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017305	0.017021	0.902400
South Africa	Rand	0.100981	0.099325	5.265900
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000821	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.110000	0.108196	5.736200
Syria	Pound	0.023001	0.022624	1.199500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029282	0.028802	1.527000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000742	0.000730	0.038700

Easycall to proceed with paging shutdown

From page B1

sure of its remaining Cebu and Manila operations would still push through on Nov. 30.

Easycall would now be focusing on its P80-million call center business, a partnership with Tennessee-based Centralized Marketing Corp.

Without its paging business, Dy said Easycall would be able to generate around P1.5 million in savings per month. This amount would then be channelled to its joint venture call center, E-performax. *Abigail L. Ho*

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

Harvesting bones so others may live

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE was a time when a patient who had cancer of the thighbone instantly became an amputee.

Now, one can undergo surgery and have an artificial bone implant. Or he could opt for an allograft involving another bone from a donor.

There are four main bone banks in the country. These are at the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Orthopedic Center, St. Luke's Medical Center and the Philippine Orthopedic Institute Foundation.

The POI bone bank, which opened in February 2001, harvests bones from willing donors—living and cadaver—whose next of kin agree to donate the bones.

So far, the POI has had three cadaveric donors, all of whom died in accidents. The thighbones, leg bones, arm bones, pelvis and hip joints were harvested from their bodies.

The POI coordinates with the Human Organ Preservation Efforts of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute and the Sta. Lucia International Eye Bank. Once the next of kin agrees, the body is brought to the NKTI for harvesting. Kidneys are the first organs to be removed and then the cornea.

Up to 12 hours after death

Bones could be harvested up to 12 hours after death, but no longer than that. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Emelie Halili-Tanchuling, who handles the POI bone bank, said harvesting of bones could be extended up to 18 hours after death, the procedure is a little more difficult.

"After 12 hours, rigor mortis sets in. You want to open up the body while it is still soft," she said.

Tanchuling, who underwent training in infections of the bone and joint and bone banking, said harvesting happens anytime from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., when most accident deaths occur.

The bones in the arms, forearms, thighs and legs, along with the knee caps and the pelvis are harvested.

Tanchuling said the harvesting team preserves the dignity of the corpse. The harvested bones are either replaced with artificial bones (sow bones) or wooden dowels. Either way, the body retains its original form.

"We definitely don't mutilate. I always tell my residents this is not a game. These bones are a gift. The dead should be respected," she stressed.

Ideal donors

Ideal candidates for bone donations are those who die in emergency rooms. Potential donors are usually trauma sufferers or victims of vehicular mishaps or crimes who are in their 20s or in the prime of their lives and are healthy.

Even stroke victims can be potential donors.

Donors still have to be screened rigidly. They should not have HIV, syphilis, hepatitis and other infectious diseases.

The screening process includes blood testing, taking the patient's history and the circumstances in the hospital where the potential donor was admitted.

Ideally, the donor should not have been confined in the hospital for more than three days. A longer stay in the intensive care unit could mean more chances for the body to acquire infections.

If infection sets in, the patient can no longer be a donor because the infection could be transferred to the recipient through the bones.

Process

Bones are wrapped in layers of foil, cloth and plastic and placed in specially made bottles that are resistant to extremely cold conditions. These are then stored in an ultra low-temperature freezer.

The freezer, which looks like an oversized photocopy machine, is set from -70 to -80 degrees Celsius. The ordinary kitchen freezer can only go as cold as -20 degrees Celsius.

Stored bones can't be handled without gloves.

Frozen bones are sent to the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute for irradiation. After irradiation, they are sent back to the POI freezer for long-term storage.

Bones stored in the freezer are known as fresh frozen allografts. After five years in the freezer, however, bone quality tends to deteriorate.

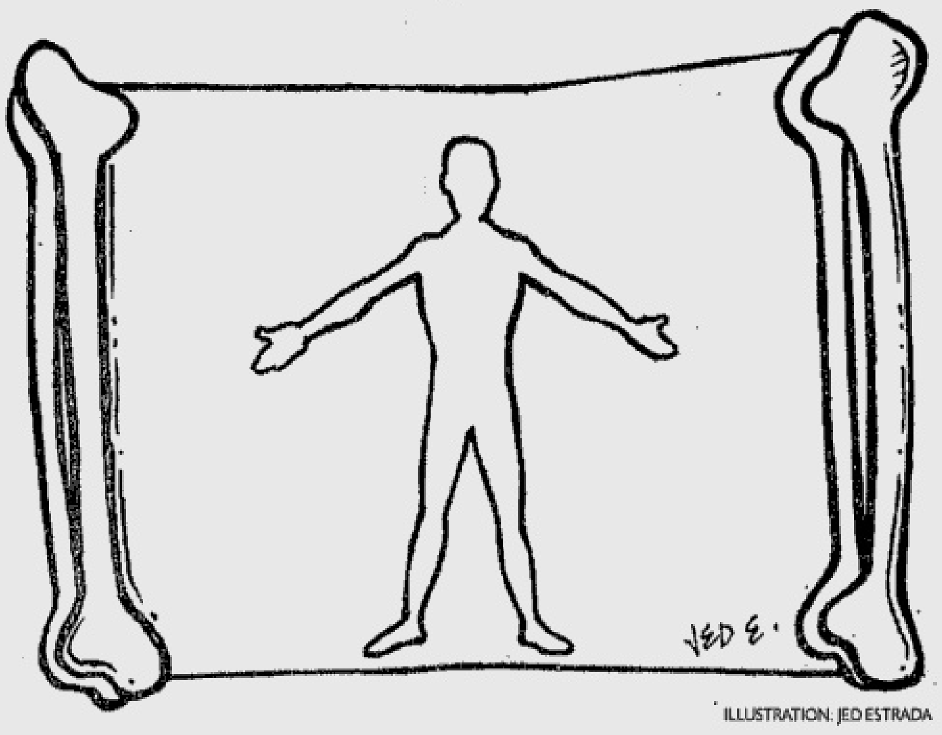


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Freeze-dried bones

There is another way of storing bones so they would last longer: freeze-drying.

In this process, the water in the bones is removed. Coupled with irradiation, freeze-drying bones would make them virtually viable forever, said Tanchuling.

The doctor said irradiating bones is necessary for preservation, although irradiation causes the bones to lose a certain amount of strength.

Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines require donated bone to undergo a second process of sterilization.

Hi-tech equipment

The POI bone bank freezer, which costs P750,000, comes with a computer that stores important information about the type of bones stored, the donor's identity and history.

In the event of a complication, the bone bank can trace the source of the infection through the database and determine what group the infected bones belong to.

Tanchuling said that in such cases, the bone group in doubt can either be discarded or irradiated again.

Bone collectors

POI's "bone collectors" are five residents, nurses and Tanchuling herself.

During any single harvest, two residents are busy on one leg, another two are working on the other leg, two do one arm and another two do the other arm.

"The bone bank is my baby," exclaimed Tanchuling.

Asked if she would have her own bones harvested when the time comes, she replied, "I would. Why not?"

Bone specialists under one roof

WE abuse our bones from time to time, causing injury to them. At other times, our bones develop diseases.

Orthopedic surgeons are the persons we run to when our bones are injured, either due to accidents or physical overexertion.

Recognizing the increasing demand for more comprehensive bone care, 10 orthopedic surgeons and a rheumatologist banded together to form a team that would enable them to better respond to various medical situations.

The Philippine Orthopedic Institute, as of Oct. 25, has handled 61,367 patients who suffer from trauma cases, bone and joint diseases, arthritis, back pains and spine injuries, among others.

Although the group maintains a clinic at the Don Jacinto Building, surgery is usually performed at the adjacent Makati Medical Center, where most of the the doctors are affiliated.

Gustilo touch

Dr. Ramon B. Gustilo is the main author of the Gustilo-Anderson classification for open fractures that was published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. It is considered the bible of orthopedic surgeons during the '70s. His classification helped diagnose and manage injuries.

Over the years, a number of orthopedic surgeons have formulated their own classifications on open fractures but fellow Filipino orthopedic surgeons say that no other has come close to the Gustilo classification.

Gustilo, a Filipino who is based in Minnesota, specializes in joint replacement and revision surgery. He does replacements of hips and knees using metal and plastic substitutes, thereby restoring full movement and strength.

Athlete's doctor

Dubbed the father of sports medicine in the Philippines, Dr. Antonio Rivera popularized sports medicine by being the court doctor of PBA players since the '70s.

More recently, Rivera has focused on shoulder surgery, particularly arthroscopic procedures which allow patients to regain early range of motion and functional activity.

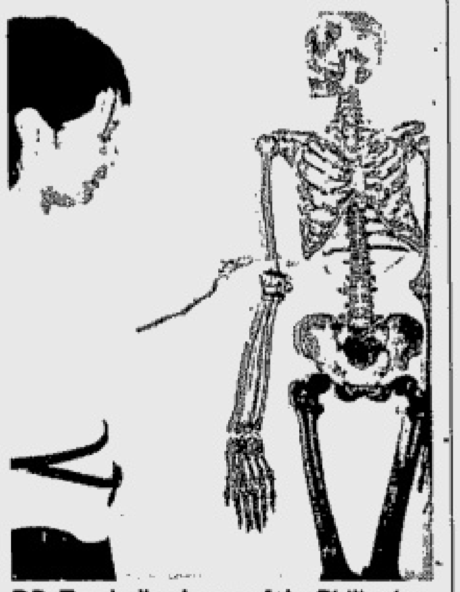
Rivera's specialty is in high demand nowadays, with people increasingly becoming health conscious. And basketball teams now consider sports medicine doctors and physical therapists as part of their team.

Rivera is the chair of the department of orthopedics of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

Other specialists

Another expert in joint replacement is Dr. Liberato Antonio C. Leagogo, who specializes in difficult fractures, particularly those of the pelvis and hip joint.

Leagogo is the president of the Philippine Hip and Knee Society and heads the Trauma Service of the Philippine General Hospital.



DR. Tanchuling is one of the Philippine Orthopedic Institute's bone experts.

Dr. Ida S. Tacata is a hand and peripheral nerve surgeon and Dr. David M. Cabatan specializes in lower back and spine problems. Cabatan is said to be one of the first to have performed a micro-lumbar discectomy (removal of a slipped disc using only a microscope). He heads the Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines.

Dr. Vince R. Gomez specializes in children's orthopedics and tumor reconstructive surgery and foot, ankle and bunion surgery. He is the head of orthopedics of the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Institute and is the cofounder of the Philippine Pediatric Orthopedic Society.

Dr. Orson Odulio is a sports medicine surgeon while Dr. Jose Martin S. Paiso specializes in spine surgery, in particular difficult spinal deformities such as scoliosis, spinal fractures and problems involving the cervical spine.

Dr. Emilia H. Tanchuling has a subspecialty training in difficult to control infections of the bone and joint and bone banking and Dr. Alan Leonardo R. Raymundo is the first Filipino trained in joint replacement.

The only rheumatologist in the team is Dr. Sandra Tankeh-Torres, currently the president of the Philippine Rheumatology Association.

Hi-tech

Complicated orthopedic procedures have been performed by the POI, which were previously available only abroad. These include total hip and total knee revisions.

Among orthopedic technologies the POI offers is the Cobra fixator, for fractures of the wrists to allow the patient to use his hands while the fracture is healing.

Landmark orthopedic cases involving the group were the separation and reconstruction of a pair of Siamese twins joined at the pelvis and the allograft reconstruction for an osteosarcoma of the proximal tibia.

Tessa R. Salazar

Different faces of the Filipino youth

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TODAY'S youth is many-faced.

Some courageously and creatively face the many personal and societal challenges, dedicating themselves to the betterment of their country. My former student, Roselle Ambubuyog, comes to mind. She overcame her visual disability and steadily pursued her goal of excellence, mathematical or otherwise, and in so doing inspired not only her peers but her mentors as well.

However, many young people do not live up to their potential. Cocooned by families that shelter them from hardship and hard work, they do not take their studies seriously, and deem constant leisure and pleasure as their inalienable right. They abuse technological conveniences and exercise their minds as little as possible. Cheating and plagiarism in school often lead to cheating outside it—corruption, bribery, tax evasion and a whole host of others. Through social connections and family wealth, they strive to hack for themselves a bountiful and pain-free future.

Then there are the majority of our youth, mired in poverty, surrounded by danger, stigmatized by the rest of society. Trapped in desperate situations, they envy others, imitate their elders and graduate from begging and snatching to a future of crime—kidnapping, mugging, drug dealing, among others. Tomorrow is, for them, murky and shadowy—something to be avoided, railed against or cast away.

Identifying needs

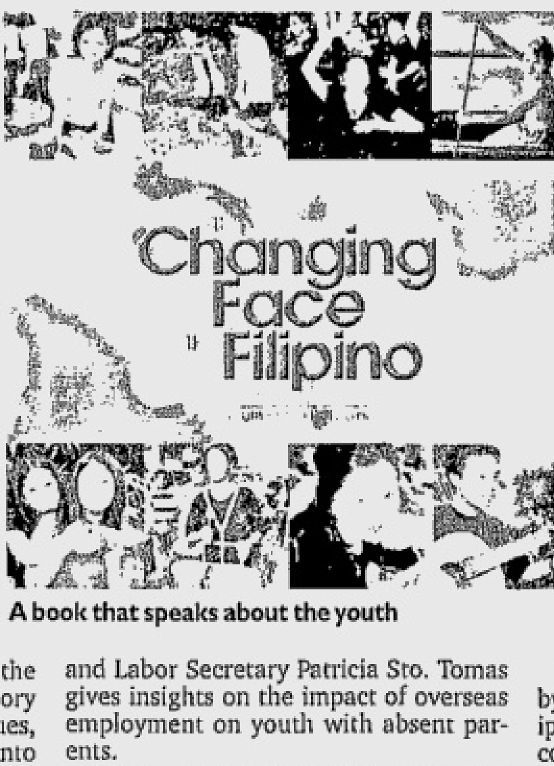
Sadly, the above depictions are no longer caricatures, but are fast becoming today's realities. Cognizant of the problems they pose, some organizations have conducted studies (McCann-Erickson's youth survey, for instance) to identify the needs of various sectors, and to recommend ways to address them.

The Salesian Brothers recently joined their ranks, with the publication of a glorious coffee-table book, "The Changing Face of the Filipino."

Designed as a "tribute to the youth of the Philippines," the book "invites serious reflection about how to address the issues relevant to the development of young Filipinos by tracing the evolution of their distinct subculture and by drawing on diverse perspectives."

Divided into two major halves, the book starts by describing the journey of the youth throughout the last five decades of the last century. (I had fun contrasting my parents' teen years in the "fabulous fifties" with mine in the "electric eighties" and my students' milieu in the "nerdy nineties." Indeed, the color photos and the write-ups regarding the 1980s nostalgically brought me back to when life was no more complicated than acing exams.)

But I believe that the most remarkable part of this book lies in the second half, which details well-thought-out essays on present young Filipinos by selected sectoral voices.



A book that speaks about the youth

Government discussants

One set of discussants comes from the government. Former President Cory Aquino writes about family and values, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. delves into technology, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste focuses on the environment. Political organizer Teddy Casiño reflects on youth politics and Finance Secretary Jose Camacho looks at youth participation in the global community. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes speaks about national security and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas gives insights on the impact of overseas employment on youth with absent parents.

Another set of voices hails from the social sciences and the community. Medical anthropologist Dr. Michael Tan discusses myths about the sexuality of our young and former Justice Leonor Ines Luciano ponders if the youth still have respect for the law. A nonformal education specialist dreams about universal quality education, while former Economic Planning Secretary Winnie Monsod tackles the deleterious effects of poverty on youth development.

Army Col. Victor Corpus emphasizes the dangers of drugs and Fr. Rocky Evangelista segues into the plight of street children. Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto writes about a topic close to her heart—minors in entertainment and the ultimate price they pay. Star bowler Paeng Nepomuceno enumerates the benefits of sports, while advertising icon Emily Abrera writes about the implications of the interactive generation.

Businessmen Joey Concepcion and Luis Lorenzo talk about the youth in the workplace and Fr. Mario Baclig writes about the youth in church. Prof. Ponciano Bennagen investigates indigenous youth, while writer and publisher Rio Alma questions the existing literacy paradigm.

I was honored to be asked to take part in this forum. Drawing from my decade-long experience with the young, I wrote about science and the youth and addressed the question: Is there an industrial future on the horizon?

Inspirational features

The reflective pieces are accompanied by inspirational features on young Filipinos who had overcome great odds and continue to nurture their dreams.

Roselle Ambubuyog is included here, as well as former child star Aiza Seguerra, World Wildlife Foundation member Lissa Lesaca, IT CEO Charlie Fernandez, events organizer Monique Lopez, tribal youth organization leader Rodel Caderno, molecular biotechnologist-to-be Ana Celestial and billiard whiz Lee Van Corteza.

The Salesian Brothers came up with this volume to commemorate their Golden Jubilee—half a century of service in the Philippines.

The astute and gentle Fr. Provincial Francis Gustilo muses, "Without the youth, we in Don Bosco and the Salesian community would lose our reason for being. We have to know our market. We have to recognize the fact that we are competing with diverse forces to win the attention, interest and loyalty of the youth from day to day. Whether we like it or not, we have to engage in some form of 'social marketing' to ensure that we remain relevant and important to young lives. To sit complacently with the notion that the youth constitute a captive market while they are in school is a sure-fire formula for failure."

Evidently St. John Bosco himself realized this millenia ago. According to Fr. Gustilo, "He advised his followers not to wait for the youth to come: 'Go to them; get in among them; get down to their level from whatever exalted height you are on'."

"By mingling with the youth, playing their games and talking their language, the teacher disarms his students and enters their hearts and minds," Fr. Gustilo continues. "At the same time, the teacher learns more about the young: how they think, how they feel, about anything, about everything. Understanding the youth. That lies at the core of our mission. That is also what this book is all about."

Produced in coordination with Infini-1 Communication Services Inc., the book is a job well done. My best wishes to the Salesian Brothers—keep up your good work among our young.

For inquiries call 899-6689 or 7631. The book is also available at the Filipino Bookstore and Filipinas Heritage Library.

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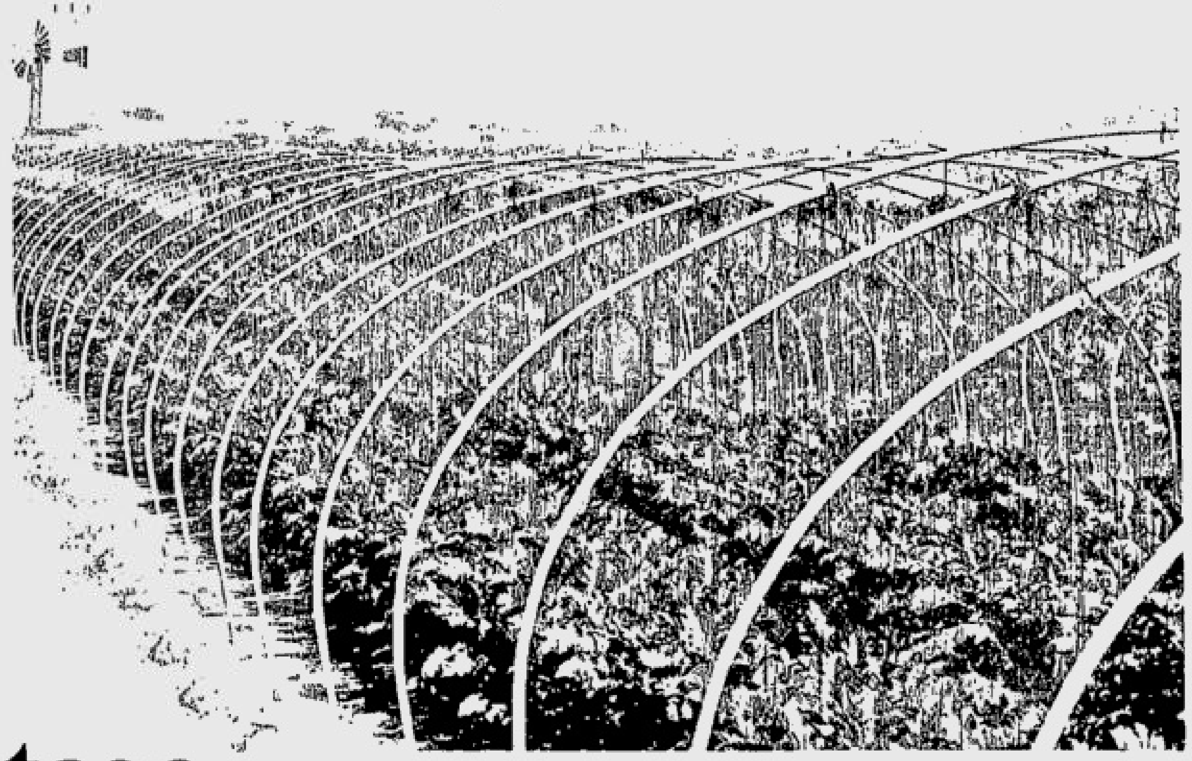
ISRAEL'S major sources of fresh water, like the Sea of Galilee, are now dropping in water levels so there's a need to supplement the country's supply with desalinated seawater.



WITH AN EXTREMELY tight water supply, Israel utilizes a breakthrough crop irrigation technology that makes every drop count.

Counting on technology to solve freshwater shortage

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

TEL-AVIV-YAFO, ISRAEL—When Lebanon began pumping water last month from the river that feeds the Sea of Galilee, Israel's largest source of fresh water, to supply its southern villages, Israeli officials were quick to consider the diversion of its waters a serious threat.

Israeli officials said they couldn't agree to such unilateral actions, adding that they reserve the right to protect their water according to law and to international law. On the other hand, Lebanese communities in the area expressed their "right to drink their water."

Indeed, the source of fresh water is becoming a contentious issue in this parched region of Asia. Some may consider the issue political but the basic problem is that demand for water is growing, a situation acknowledged elsewhere in the world.

The World Meteorological Organization reported that by 2025 almost a billion people will face serious water shortages. And much of this population will be living on or near a coast, from the South China Sea to southern California to the southern Mediterranean. In fact, as early as three years ago, the United Nations Environment Program reported that 200 scientists in 50 countries had identified water shortage as one of the two most worrying problems for the new millennium (the other was global warming).

We use about 70 percent of the water we have in agriculture. But the World Water Council believes that by 2020 we shall need 17 percent more water than is available if we are to feed the world. This early the world supply of fresh water is running out and an estimated one person in five has no access to safe drinking water.

Mostly salt water

Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water. Although water is seemingly abundant, the University of Michigan reported that 97.5 percent of this is salt water, leaving only 2.5 percent as fresh water. Nearly 70 percent of that fresh water is frozen in the icecaps of Antarctica and Greenland and most of the remainder is present as soil moisture, or lies in deep underground aquifers as groundwater not accessible to human use.

Only one percent of the world's fresh water (about 0.007 percent of all water on earth) is accessible for direct human use. This is the water found in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and those underground sources that are shallow enough to be tapped at an affordable cost. Only this amount is regularly renewed by rain and snowfall, and is therefore available on a sustainable basis.

In the case of Israel, the people get their water from three main sources. These include the Sea of Galilee, which is fed by the upper head waters of the Jordan river and an aquifer, an underground source of water along the coastal plain near the Mediterranean. The third major source is the aquifer beneath the West Bank, which has become an increasingly important source to Israel particularly during the past years when there had been a serious drought.

To use water from these sources more efficiently, the Israelis are doing the obvious: conserving the water they already used or recycling it cleanly. Or they dig more wells, taking care not to deplete aquifers. In agriculture, they employ irrigation systems, which drip water directly onto plants while on some they use precision sprinklers.

"On this aspect, Israel has been one of the world's leaders in using water more efficiently—in agriculture and the industrial sector and in the residential sector," reported Dr. Arie Regev, director of Israel's Foreign Relations Department.

Certainly, Israel is credited with making drip irrigation commercially viable. This is a very efficient technology for irrigating crops; it delivers water in very low quantities directly to the roots of the plant. The Israelis are also treating wastewater, using that as an irrigation supply, and sort of getting double benefit out of the water—using it more than once. They have been very good at installing efficient fixtures in homes and businesses.

Looking elsewhere

But one solution is making surprising progress. It is desalination, the cleaning of either seawater or brackish water through a variety of different technologies.

Israel's chronic shortage of water has led Mekorot, the state-owned Israeli water company, to look at desalination as a solution. To date the country's desalination plants are concentrated in the southern city of Eilat, where Israel's potable water is mainly sourced.

More plants are expected to be built in (about four to six more) along the Mediterranean shore according to Environmental Technologies executive Avraham Israeli of the Israel Export Institute. The first plant, which is scheduled to operate in the second half of 2003 is located in Ashkelon while the second is located in Ashdod.

The desalination plants are expected to diminish the pressure on the Sea of Galilee's water resources. The sea's water has fallen back to its lowest levels in decades.

"There is huge competition now in the business, so prices are decreasing (for desalination technology). And the technology, which is very good now, is getting better all the time," noted Regev. He added that over a decade the price of desalinated water has fallen by more than 100 percent, making it much more affordable for Israel.

These plants involve extremely advanced reverse osmosis technology which would use pure seawater as well as brackish water. They are part of a threefold plan to increase Israel's own water supply, enlarge the possibilities for water imports and cut the unnecessary consumption of water through reduction in pipe leakage, etc.

It is claimed that desalination will provide half of Israel's urban water by 2008.

Elsewhere in the world, more than 30 large seawater desalination plants are now in the construction or planning stage. With desalination becoming increasingly efficient and affordable, it is beginning to look like an ideal growth industry: the raw material is abundant and demand for the finished product is almost unquenchable.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Clean hands—always

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

SOME weeks ago several US hospitals announced that they were replacing antimicrobial soap dispensers and sinks all over their buildings with alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Such a move, they said, would ensure that nurses could move more quickly between patients, taking less time to clean their hands before dealing with each individual. Of course, it didn't hurt that hand sanitizers cost less than antimicrobial soaps and water.

Now, the US government has issued guidelines on the use of hand sanitizers, urging even more hospitals and their personnel to get rid of the notion that antimicrobial soap and water get the job done better every time.

Studies have shown that the human hand can carry millions of bacteria at any given time—"Sesame Street" and those Lifebuoy commercials they showed when we were kids were only too happy to emphasize this point.

Speedier patient care

The hospitals aren't as concerned with cutting costs as they are with ensuring speedier patient care.

Studies have shown that the process of thoroughly washing one's hands between patients can take up a full hour during an eight-hour work shift. The time factor has led several hospital staff members to skip hand washing so they could attend to their patients.

That's a scary thought, and no one likes the idea of getting infected with some life-threatening disease at the dirty hands of a nurse who had just changed the bedsheets. There are millions of people who die every year from infections unrelated to their own ailments, and which they picked up at the hospital.

Just 30 seconds

With hand sanitizers though, doctors and nurses can leave one patient, walk into the hallway, press the hand sanitizer dispenser lever, collect a peso-sized amount of clear liquid in their palm, rub it all over their hands, and have bacteria-free, dry hands when they get to the next patient.

The entire process can take a mere 30 seconds, which means hospital personnel can attend to more patients per shift.

When alcohol-based hand sanitizers first came on the scene a few years ago, they were being offered as a way to clean one's hands in the absence of water.

Composed of 60 to 90 percent alcohol—either ethanol or isopropanol—the gels are cool to the touch, nondrying to the skin and kill bacteria without resorting to burning them away with the high alcohol content.

People at outdoor gatherings and who travel by plane, ship, train or car rejoiced at the thought of staying clean at all times wherever they went. Suddenly, everyone was carrying a tiny bottle of hand sanitizer in their bags, bringing them out whenever clean hands were called for or just plain desired.

It wasn't long before hand sanitizers became brand name products, and consumers could choose which color and/or scent suited them best. Now there are even antibacterial hand lotions, combining the cleaning power of the hand sanitizer with moisturizing, soothing lotion.

Will hospitals someday find themselves teaming up with stores like The Body Shop? Only time will tell.

Not a replacement

It should be noted that hand sanitizers aren't meant to completely replace washing your hands with antimicrobial soap and water. Alcohol alone will not get rid of visible dirt and bloodstains, after all.

Even surgeons are being offered the choice of hand sanitizers or antimicrobial soap and water when prepping for surgery as a means of preventing infection in case the sterile gloves worn during the operation should tear.

In the case of surgeons, thoroughly washing the hands and forearms often leads to skin scrubbed raw, which in turn leads to increased demand for good moisturizing lotions. Hand sanitizers would be kinder to the skin, being less inclined to dry it out.

Will Philippine hospitals follow this US trend? I don't know.

In the meantime, I'll have to watch "Sesame Street" again and see what new songs Elmo and his pals will be singing to tell kids that clean hands—whether by soap and water or hand sanitizers—are always "good to see" and have.

Squaring off with one's social fears

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IT'S the season for spooky tales. Stories and movies of the dead and undead never fail to produce a cold tingle up one's spine. The fear gradually builds up and sometimes reaches phobic proportions.

Fear is normal and may in fact be healthy since it makes one more alert and reactive to its source. However, phobia, or pathological fear, is abnormal since it literally paralyses the sufferer, making him incapable of doing ordinary daily activities.

Many adults think it's fun and effective to scare children with spooky stories to make them behave. The fear instilled in the children may be benign and of no serious consequence. For some though, it may lead to serious behavioral disorders later in adult life.

Social phobia

One of the unpleasant offshoots of sustained and heightened fear is the development of social phobia, a disorder characterized by overwhelming anxiety and excessive self-consciousness during social situations. The usual behavior is persistent, intense and chronic fear of being scrutinized by others and of being embarrassed or humiliated by their own actions.

Speaking to others, especially before a big group, can be most excruciating. Although it is common for people to experience some anxiety before or during a public appearance, the anxiety level in people with social phobia is so abnormally high that they get tongue-tied and become speechless. In many instances, they start avoiding social situations.

Statistics show that up to 5 percent of the population may be afflicted with social phobia. It occurs in women twice as often as in men, although a higher portion of men seek help for this disorder. It typically begins in childhood or early adolescence and rarely develops after the age of 25.

Complications

Social phobia leads to a string of complications. It can cause lowered self-esteem, depression and, in extreme situations, suicide attempts. To reduce their anxiety, people with social phobia may resort to alcohol or other drugs, and end up with alcohol or substance abuse.

Many people with social phobia also develop other anxiety disorders, including panic attacks, during dreaded social situations. As more situational panic attacks occur, people with social phobia may take extreme measures to avoid situations where they fear the occurrence of another panic attack.

This avoidance may eventually develop into agoraphobia, an inability to go beyond known and safe surroundings because of intense fear and anxiety.

Social phobia sufferers recognize that their fear is unreasonable, but they feel helpless about it. What's worse, a dreaded situation usually produces anxiety days or months before it actually happens. And, usually, the fear is exaggerated and out of proportion to what the source of fear may actually cause.

Social phobia can be specific and may be limited to only one type of situation, such as public speaking. But some types may be so broad that a person experiences phobic symptoms in any social setting.

Even highly talented and skilled individuals may be stunted in their professional development because of their social phobia. Even relationships with close relatives and friends may be broken because of unreasonable anxieties, making the sufferer unbearable to deal and live with.

Manifestation

Intense anxiety may manifest itself in practically all types of symptoms in all organs of the body. Among the more common symptoms are blushing, profuse sweating, trembling, difficulty in talking, nausea or other stomach discomfort, rapid and shallow breathing and heart-related symptoms such as palpitations and chest tightness.

These symptoms heighten the sufferer's fear of not being acceptable in social settings and the symptoms tend to snowball and become an additional focus of fear.

Social phobia often runs in families. Although some genetic predisposition has been implicated, one's past experiences of being constantly subjected to fear and social disapproval are frequently the aggravating factors.

Other researchers are investigating the environment's influence on its development. People with social phobia may acquire their fear from observing the behavior and consequences of others, a process called observational learning, or social modeling.

Treatment

Social phobia can be controlled by two effective forms of treatment.

Certain medications and short-term psychotherapy called cognitive behavior therapy can significantly relieve the symptoms of social phobia. Medications include selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, monoamine oxidase inhibitors and high-potency benzodiazepenes. Beta-blockers, more commonly used to control high blood pressure, may also help particularly those with palpitations and hand tremors.

Cognitive-behavior therapy has been shown to be very useful in treating social phobia. Some call it exposure therapy, which involves helping patients gradually become more comfortable with situations that frighten them.

Sufferers of social phobia can also be helped with anxiety management training, which is part of cognitive behavior therapy. They are taught relaxation techniques such as deep breathing to control their levels of anxiety.

Another important aspect of treatment is cognitive restructuring, which involves helping individuals identify their misjudgments and develop more realistic expectations of the likelihood of danger in social situations.

Social phobia sufferers can draw some reassurance from the thought that their fear is unfounded and there is really nothing to fear but fear itself.

New technology kills airborne flu virus

SHARP Corp. of Japan has developed a new air purification technology that effectively inactivates airborne viruses such as the influenza virus and disease-causing bacteria such as the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus.*

The "plasmacluster iron air purification technology," created in Sharp's research and development laboratories, generates "cluster ions" that surround microparticles such as viruses, bacteria, molds and even odor-causing molecules. Ions are atoms that have become electrically charged.

According to Sharp scientists, the cluster ions transform harmful airborne substances into "extremely active hydroxyl groups" (chemically represented as OH), which are basically harmless. The cluster ions withdraw hydrogen atoms from the harmful substances' cell walls, thereby breaking down their structure.

In April 2001, an independent institute, the Kitasato Research Center of Environmental Sciences in Tokyo, began tests on Sharp's new technology, with special emphasis on airborne influenza viruses. The tests involved preparing two identically shaped cylindrical containers. A plasmacluster ion generator was installed in one of the containers, and the difference in virus concentration was compared to provide a measure of the efficacy of the plasmacluster ions.

The results showed that the "cell infection rate" or virus concentration in the containers that passed through the ion generator dropped to less than one percent (0.52 percent). The cell infection rate for the container in which no generator was installed was 100 percent. Notably, the efficacy of the plasmacluster ion technology has been validated by the Lubeck University Clinic in Germany.

Current medical practice in fighting the influenza virus involves treatments using inactivated vaccines or anti-influenza drugs that prevent infection by the virus by inactivating it in the body. In contrast, Sharp has developed the world's first technology to inactivate the influenza virus—which spreads through the air—directly in the air. Sharp plans to aggressively deploy this technology in new fields such as residential construction, the automotive industry and in medical equipment.

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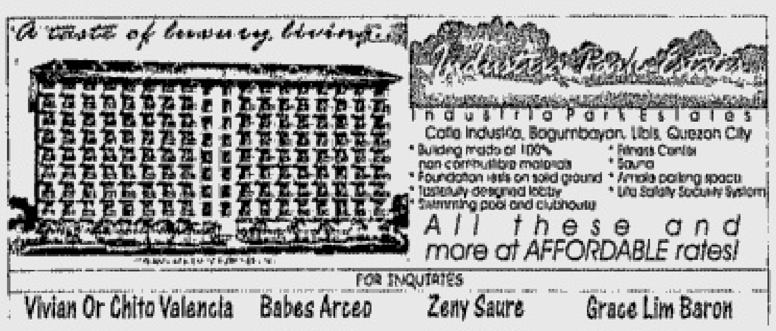
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*0919-5609039	*0918-5236521	*0917-7341388	*0919-5934854

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LOT

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BF HOMES Caloocan LA279m² P5,376/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

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PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P3,960/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P3,833/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

LOT

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Rush 365sqm Negotiable Filinvest P'que., Sucat 842-83-35 • 0917-244-5809

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METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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Cubao 630m² P22M neg comm. clean title call Amy 4438580/09168247655

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TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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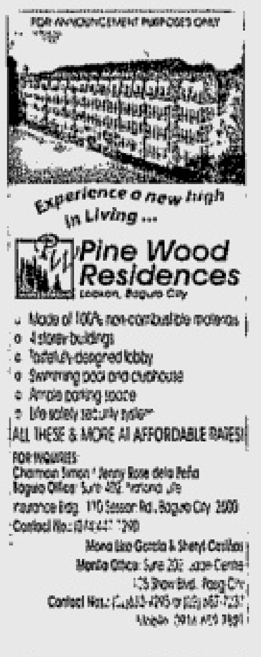

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MAKATI

3BR & Studio & Room 8992148

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5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154508

2BR BALIC'. SAMP 7136110

MANDALUYONG

HWYHILS 2BR U/D 8212091

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FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

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QUEZON CITY

XVILLE2 Townhse 2-Sty 2BIG BR / TB maidsrm grge P15T/mo 8906294

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MITSUBISHI

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'98 Galanat S/S 400TH A-1 0917-8470057

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JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P170T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

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STAREX MB HIACE 8257135

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966533

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

22T New Compit SR Impd 7767507

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

GILBARCO FUEL DISPENSER Dual hose-mech/digital Call Andrew 09189188575

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Northern Mindanao Community Initiative and Resource Management Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancies for the following positions in the Project Facilitation Office (PFO) based in Butuan City of the **"Northern Mindanao Community Initiative and Resource Management Project (NMCIREMP)"** with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. FINANCE OFFICER

Qualifications:
☐ At least 7 years experience in financial management of projects or businesses with similar funding budgets and staff complement to the Project in the public, private or NGO sectors;
☐ A CPA or masters degree in related subject/course with knowledge and experience in government budget and accounting systems, financial control/monitoring and audit;
☐ Has working knowledge and experience in government relating to management information systems, personnel management and other administrative systems;
☐ Must be computer literate; and
☐ Preferably Mindanao resident.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/GENDER SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
☐ At least 7 years practical experience in economic-oriented activities for the community development component of the project;
☐ Minimum of two years managerial work, preferably with some exposure in other countries and/or alternative community animation and mobilization methodologies;
☐ Degree holder or relevant course; holders of master's degree in relevant course, an advantage;
☐ Must be willing to spend considerable time in travel and temporary residence in the field;
☐ Knowledge in computer operation an advantage; and
☐ Preferably resident of Mindanao.

Terms of Reference (TOR) for each position are available at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), 1st Floor FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Successful candidates may be hired on a contractual basis, renewable annually; or under secondment/detail arrangement for government personnel.

Application letters and corresponding resume should be sent/submitted to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Deadline for applications is (November 11, 2002). For inquiries, please contact Susan Perez or Andrew Gonzales at telephone numbers (02) 927-0752 or 453-3633.

October 26 & Nov. 2, 2002 -- Inquirer

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Internet Service Providers to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following project:

Project Title	:	Department of Trade and Industry One-Information-Service-Provider (1-ISP) Project
Service Period	:	One-Year: 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003
Approved Budget	:	PhP 6,000,000.00

Interested bidders may request for a detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) c/o The Director Management Information Service, DTI Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 5/F Trade and Industry Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. 890-4865 Fax No. 890-4970, e-mail address: mis@dti.dti.gov.ph. The TOR may be picked-up from the said office from Tuesday, 29 October until 8 November 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of PhP1,000.00 at the DTI Cashier.

Deadline for submission of eligibility documents is 12 noon, **11 November 2002.**

DTI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

This invitation is also posted at the DTI website: www.dti.gov.ph/News&Events.

(Sgd.) **ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS**
Assistant Secretary and Chairman,
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

JEWELRY

ANY ROLEX and Other Swiss Watches Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

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Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Dachshund Pup M 4354575

DOG TRAINER 4528681

GOLDEN RET PUP 426-5472

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8020566/8014494

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

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MALE

JR GAY STYLIST 7T-7.5T SALON ISABEL Tel 6319949

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAF 09192535623 GLENDA

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Tax Marketing 456-8634

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RUBEN A. SISON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 438 Page No. 84 Book VII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Al Harith D. Sali of Quezon City (PDI-Oct.26,Nov.2&9,2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 Rlln earn-and-travel com

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs old w/Serious Exp. in Mktg. Mngt. Banking & Finance • Tel # 525-0234 •

PRIME EXHIBIT SPACES 4 RENT
J&F DIVINO ARCADE
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4260531/6266•0917-5335635

SPECIAL SAVINGS PROGRAM 50T min. investment, 10% a month, renewable every 6 mos. Guaranteed w/ contract & post dated checks. Call 8439322

Earn w/Travel 0917-8114249

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE

420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The **Philippine Air Force Disposal Committee** will receive sealed bids until **04 Dec 2002, 2:00 P.M.** at **Conference Room of 420th Supply Wing,** Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"as is, where is"** basis:

Lot Number / Description	LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Lot 5-283-022 – 10 T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P3,150,000
Lot 5-283-023– 8 T-28 engines w/out canister	-do-	P2,070,000
Lot IID - assorted acft parts	-do-	P39,640
Lot IIID –assorted acft parts	-do-	P74,603
Lot I – 1: F-8H aircraft nr **302**	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga	P1,350,000
Lot I – 2: F-8H aircraft nr **307**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 3: F-8H aircraft nr **309**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 4: F-8H aircraft nr **311**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 5: F-8H aircraft nr **316**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 6: F-8H aircraft nr **317**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 7: F-8H aircraft nr **320**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 8: F-8H aircraft nr **322**	-do-	P1,350,000

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Buyers of F-8H aircraft are required to submit an **"End Use - End User Certification"**
6. Additional information / request for inspection may be secured from the Disposal Unit, 420th SW, tel nr. (045) 599-2014/2015 loc. 6524
7. Pre-bid conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100. 00 per set) will be on **21 Nov, 2002, 2:00 P.M. at 420th SW Conference Room,** 420th SW, Clark Air Base. Angeles City, Pampanga
8. Inspection schedule will be from 05 Nov to 29 Nov 2002, from 0800H to 1700H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE **PAF.**

PAF Disposal Committee

(Sgd.) **Col. CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA PAF (GSC)**
Wing Commander, 420th SW, PAF
Chairman

(PDI: Nov 2, 3, 4, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website www.pdic.gov.ph
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers of file servers and tape library system to bid for the following:

Item	Qty.
I. FILE SERVERS (WITH BUNDLED SOFTWARE)	5
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	5,100,000.00
II. TAPE LIBRARY SYSTEM	1
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	1,860,000.00

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting **November 4-11, 2002,** 8:00am to 5:00pm at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Department, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Maricel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on **November 14, 2002** at 2:00 pm to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards. Bidders whose Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on the net working capital is less than the approved budget shall be disqualified. NFCC shall be computed based on the following formula:

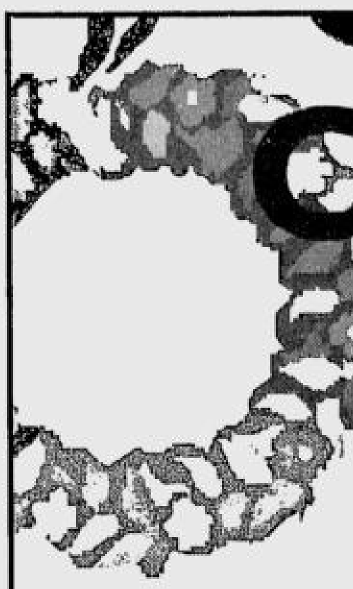
NFCC = [(current assets – current liabilities) x 10] – value of all outstanding or on-going contracts and contracts awarded yet to be started

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2002)



Christmas Cheers

"Sharing with you the glory, the joy, the miracle of this holy season. Merry Christmas!"

On **December 25, 2002, INQUIRER Classifieds** will accommodate personal holiday greetings and messages. Avail of this special offer at a discounted rate of **P50 per line and P150 per column centimeter for box ads.**

For more information, visit or call any Inquirer branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

Deadline of ad placement: **December 20, 2002**

SAMPLE ADS

Jaymie,
A warm Christmas wish to remind you just how much you're cherished through the year. Merry Christmas!
Jet

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat incl.

Merry Christmas Ernie! God bless you and your family – Sheryl

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat incl.

Happy Holidays AJ! May God bless you always. – Maxine

size: 2 lines
cost: P110 vat incl.

MAKATI (MAIN):
PASONG TAMO AVE., COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 514, 516
☎ 897-8425 (Direct)
897-4808
main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MAKATI BRANCH:
G/F, ATRIUM OF MAKATI, MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
☎ 811-4370, 811-4361
892-5578
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

QUEZON CITY:
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., Q.C.
☎ 912-9008 to 10
912-9011
cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MANILA:
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528-0213
intra_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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635-0220
sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ALABANG:
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Discount Coupon

Present this coupon and automatically get **P100.00 off** in placing your Christmas greetings.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MESSAGEBOARD

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg #3. SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE STA CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL NO (632) 743-83-01
LOCAL 1338
E-mail address www.doh.gov.ph

30 October 2002

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. 2002-11-27 (6)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed bids from interested Bidders to provide ***Distribution/Forwarding Services*** to the DOH Central Office and Centers for Health Development (CHD) for the year 2003. The estimated budget for this procurement is Twenty-Four Million Philippines Pesos (PhP 24,000,000.00).

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon payment of ***non-refundable fee of two thousand (PhP2,000.00) pesos*** only from the Procurement and Logistics Service from *11 November to 26 November 2002*, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A ***pre-bidding conference*** will be held on *13 November 2002* at ***1:00 p.m.***, BHDT Conference Room, Bldg. #24-, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the BHDT Conference Room not later than ***1:00 p.m.*** on ***27 November 2002***. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an amount of ***Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos***, in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank, or any combination thereof, as may be required by the head of the agency concerned.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 2 & 10, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT

Invitation for Bids

October 18, 2002
Loan No. PH-P184
IFB No. PISU-CO/272002-JBIC

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) (formerly the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Selected Public Elementary Schools in the Philippines.**
2. DepEd Philippines Project Implementation Support Unit for the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of School Furniture.
3. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of school furniture to public or private elementary schools in remote areas in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and secure the bidding documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) with office address at 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019, Fax # (632) 636-6542 starting **October 21, 2002**, or visit the DepEd website at http://www.decs.gov.ph.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon submission of a written application to the above and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00).
6. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before 10:00 A.M., on **December 2, 2002** and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cashier's or certified check of not less than two percent (2%) of total bid amount.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **December 2, 2002**, at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 14, 2002**, 10:00 A.M. at the venue indicated in paragraph 7.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 20, 27 & Nov. 2, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Lucky' saint

Q. Who was the only one of the Twelve Apostles to die of natural causes?

A. Saint John. Being an Apostle of Christ meant hard work and, almost invariably, death by beheading, crucifixion, impalement, or some equally terrible means. But somehow, Saint John, the youngest Apostle and the only one to witness the Crucifixion, managed to die in bed. Not that he led a sheltered life. According to the Roman theologian Tertullian, John was boiled in oil on orders from Emperor Domitian but miraculously emerged without so much as a blister. He was later exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the *Book of Revelations*. John died peacefully in Ephesus, Asia Minor, around 100 A.D., at a very advanced age.

For the Record. All Saints' Day wasn't originally November 1. The festival was introduced in the 7th century by Pope Gregory IV to commemorate all those saints and martyrs who had no special days to themselves, and was held on May 13. But in the 8th century it was moved to November 1 to counteract pagan celebrations held on that date.

Ganito Sila Noon. In earlier times, Filipinos observed All Saints' Day separately from All Souls' Day. November 1 meant visiting the cemetery to honor the memory of the dead: November 2 was for going to church to pray for souls in purgatory. Strictly, November 2, not November 1, is *Piyesta ng Patay*, but the distinction has long been blurred.

WORD WATCH

Hagiolatry (hag-i-ol'a-tree) : the worship of saints.

PDI -- November 2, 2002

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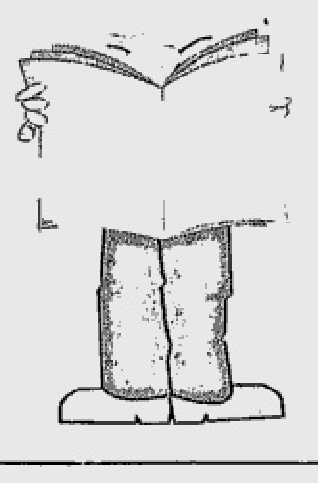

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of Mandaluyong City and Cebu City
Born: February 7,1943

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 31, 2002

He is survived by his wife **CELIA**; children and children-in-law **BARRY** and **IMEE**, **CHERRY** and **HARRY**, **MANNY**, **MICHAEL**, **RAFFY**, and **REGGIE**; grandchildren **TIMMY** and **PHILIP**; parents **CELING** and **BETTY**; brother **MARIO**; sisters and brothers-in-law **CELIA**, **LINDA** and **PAUL** (+), **SUSAN**, **MYRNA** and **LOUIE**; and other dear relatives.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Judge Manuel E. Reyes

(Retired)

September 12, 1913 - October 28, 2002

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 89.

His wife **Gloria**; sons & daughters; **Mercen, Xerxes, Malyn, Joel, Gail, Hervas & Paolo** wish to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at San Lorenzo, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on November 3, 2002 at Gapan Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. memorial services at Three Kings Parish, San Vicente, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

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102 years

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On November 2nd, her Ninth Year of residency in Heaven in the company of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask all her relatives, classmates, colleagues and friends to fondly remember her and her deepest love for Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Novenas of Masses will be offered at Christ the King Seminary, Mt. Carmel Shrine and St. Joseph Convent at 6:30 a.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. Sundays.

1st Death Anniversary
of

DR. MILAGROS "BONG" ERAÑA

(June 3, 1940 - November 2, 2001)

Masses will be offered at the following churches on November 2, 2002:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 A.M.
San Antonio de Padua Parish *Pila, Laguna*	6:00 A.M.
Corpus Christi Chapel *Tagaytay City*	6:00 P.M.
Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish *Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City*	6:30 A.M.
Makati Medical Center Chapel *Makati City*	7:30 A.M.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	6:15 A.M.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"We Never Lose Those We Give To God"

RICARDO "STEVE" D. MONROY

Died peacefully on October 30, 2002 at the age of 46.

His loving mother ELISA D. MONROY; children; brothers; sisters; nephews; nieces; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in 92 P. Cadorniga St., Navotas, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 3, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m Mass at the Navotas Municipal Cemetery.

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In Loving Memory of our Dearly Beloved

DR. BAYANI MOLE y BANZUELA

*Peacefully joined the Lord on October 28, 2002
at the age of 72.*

He will be most missed by his beloved wife **Cecilia T. Hofer**; children **Paul Charles** and **Flornabelle**, **John Anthony Joseph**, **Andrew Bayani Joseph**; grandson **Joseph Osiris**; stepmother **Bella B. Mole**; brothers and sisters **Magsikap**, **Liwayway**, **Antonio**, **Carlos**; brothers and sisters-in-law; and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love him.

His body lies in state at Cebu Rolling Hills, Fortuna St., Mandaue City.

Interment will be on Monday, November 4, 2002 at Cebu Memorial Park.

ANGEL SABINOSA MURILLO

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 31, 2002 at the age of 91.

His loving wife **Mamerta** (+); children **Elena & Jaime** (+) **Cariaso**; **George & Fely**; **Ramon & Ave**; brother **Ambrose**; grandchildren **Gerard**, **Ariel**, **Jonathan**, **Eric** and **Janine Cariaso**; **Michael & Len**, **Francis**, **Gilbert & Janet & Anna Murillo**; **Shirley**, **Melissa**, **Catherine & Gabriel Murillo**; great grandchildren **Kim Patrick**, **Felice Anne**, **Denise Marie**, **Gio**, and **Lorenzo Cariaso**; **Isabella & Luis Murillo**; and **Lexi Murillo** request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 3, 2002
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 3:00 p.m. Mass
at the Miraculous Medal Shrine. Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City.

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Rural banks, co-ops with less bad loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S rural banks and cooperatives had fewer bad loans in their June portfolios, according to data released this week by the central bank.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the overall non-performing loans ratio of rural banks and cooperatives shrank to 14.82 percent in June from 15.03 percent in March.

Non-performing loans are those in default or close to being in default. Many loans become non-performing after being in default for three months, but this can depend on the contract terms.

Central bank officials said while the bad loans of small lenders actually grew by 1.38 percent to P6.927 billion in June, a 2.77-percent growth in their total loan portfolio gave the overall ratio a lift.

As of June 30, the total loan portfolio of rural banks and cooperatives stood at around P46.74 billion from P45.479 billion as of March 31.

Rural banks and cooperatives had some P40.7 billion in their loan portfolios last year, while the amount of loans considered as nonperforming were at P6.6 billion.

The bad loans ratio among rural banks slid to an average 14.84 percent in June from 15.02 percent in March.

Cooperatives, on the other hand, posted a similar improvement, with their bad loans ratio shrinking to 14.65 percent in June from 15.04 percent in March.

The coverage ratio of these lenders as of June also improved to 35.78 percent from 35.63 percent in March due to a 1.81-percent growth in provisions.

Last year's coverage ratio, an indicator that tells whether banks have enough reserves to guard against defaults, was lower at 32.88 percent.

The ratio of real and other properties owned or acquired—Ropoa—to gross assets fell to 9 percent from 9.39 percent in the first quarter, as the level of foreclosed assets slid 0.24 percent, while gross assets grew 4.06 percent.

On the other hand, the ratio of gross restructured loans against total loans rose to 2.9 percent from 2.87 percent, as restructured credit grew 3.98 percent.

Oil imports to undergo environment tests

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has said it will require petroleum importers to have samples of their shipments tested to determine whether their products comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

The DOE made the statement after new entrant Unioil Philippine Petroleum Inc. called on other oil firms to import products that would comply with the law rather than have the implementation of the provisions suspended.

The law provides that by next year, the aromatic content of unleaded gasoline sold in the local market should not be more than 35 percent of the product's volume.

It also requires benzene contents of gasoline should be not more than 2 percent of volume.

The current maximum allowed content of aromatics and benzene are 40 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

The energy department explained that the mandatory laboratory tests aim to determine whether the supposed compliant fuel shipments indeed meet the requirements of the law.

"We have requested Unioil to immediately submit samples of the supposed compliant unleaded gasoline for our verification," Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios said.

SEC studies one-license concept for brokers

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is planning to consolidate the licenses of investment houses, brokerages and dealerships, into a single license.

"This will save time and paperwork," SEC market regulation department director Jose Aquino said of the one-license concept.

Aquino said in the case of investment houses, their licenses would expire by end-January, while those of the other companies would expire by Dec. 31, doubling the work of the department.

Under the tentative plan, one license will cover related activities of market participants who, at present, have to each get a separate license for brokering, underwriting and other distinct securities operations.

Aquino also noted that companies involved in other activities would have an easier time complying with the government agency's regulatory requirements.

It is still not clear if the corporate watchdog plans to fine-tune capital and other requirements.

Most market participants are required by the SEC to submit the same type of reports or documents. Brokers, investment houses, financing companies and other companies with a secondary license from the SEC or with registered securities, for instance, have to each come up with their own manual on corporate governance and manual on anti-money laundering.

The SEC is, meanwhile, coming up with common checklists for its different departments and divisions.

Bicolano traders oppose Pimentel's business bill

LEGAZPI CITY—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel will have a hard time convincing Bicolano businessmen to support his bill, Senate Bill No. 2277, known as the "Magna Carta for Business," as businessmen here claim that the bill is full of redundancies and will just provide another bottleneck for the business sector.

Pimentel sought audience with businessmen here, including members and officials of the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Albay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the meeting, Pimentel enjoined local businessmen to take a good look at his proposed "Businessmen's Bible."

Pimentel explained that the Magna Carta for Business would actually restructure businessmen's relationship with the government as a solution to alleviate poverty.

Included in Pimentel's proposed bill is the creation of the Philippine Council for Business Concern that will deal with business-related problems.

Jose Estevez Jr., ACCI president, told the INQUIRER that there was actually no need to further strengthen the relationship between them and the government since the two had always been supportive of almost all government undertakings in advancing the country's progress. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ◎ Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

SANTOS. Has kept herself looking, thinking and feeling relatively young.

Vilma Santos stars in new TV-film projects

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN many of the country's top dramatic stars started to act in the major networks' TV soaps, people wondered when Vilma Santos would follow suit. After all, with the stellar likes of Nora Aunor, Eddie Garcia, Lorna Tolentino and Richard Gomez headlining them, local soap operas have become the biggest craze on weeknight television, upstaging even last season's top favorites, the game and quiz shows.

Lack of visibility

Of course, Vilma didn't *have* to jump onto the soaps' bandwagon (bathtub on wheels?). After all, for the past few years, she has generally made herself scarce on the big and small screens to pay more attention to her work as mayor of Lipa City, and to her family—but her popularity hasn't really suffered due to her lack of visibility.

So, she could have stayed away from TV and just starred in a landmark film every two years, as has been her wont for some entertainment seasons now. But, when the acting bug bites, even veteran stars like Vilma feel the need to tackle new acting challenges.

Drama show to beat

Especially since she *was* offered a TV soap of her own, with top talents also onboard to

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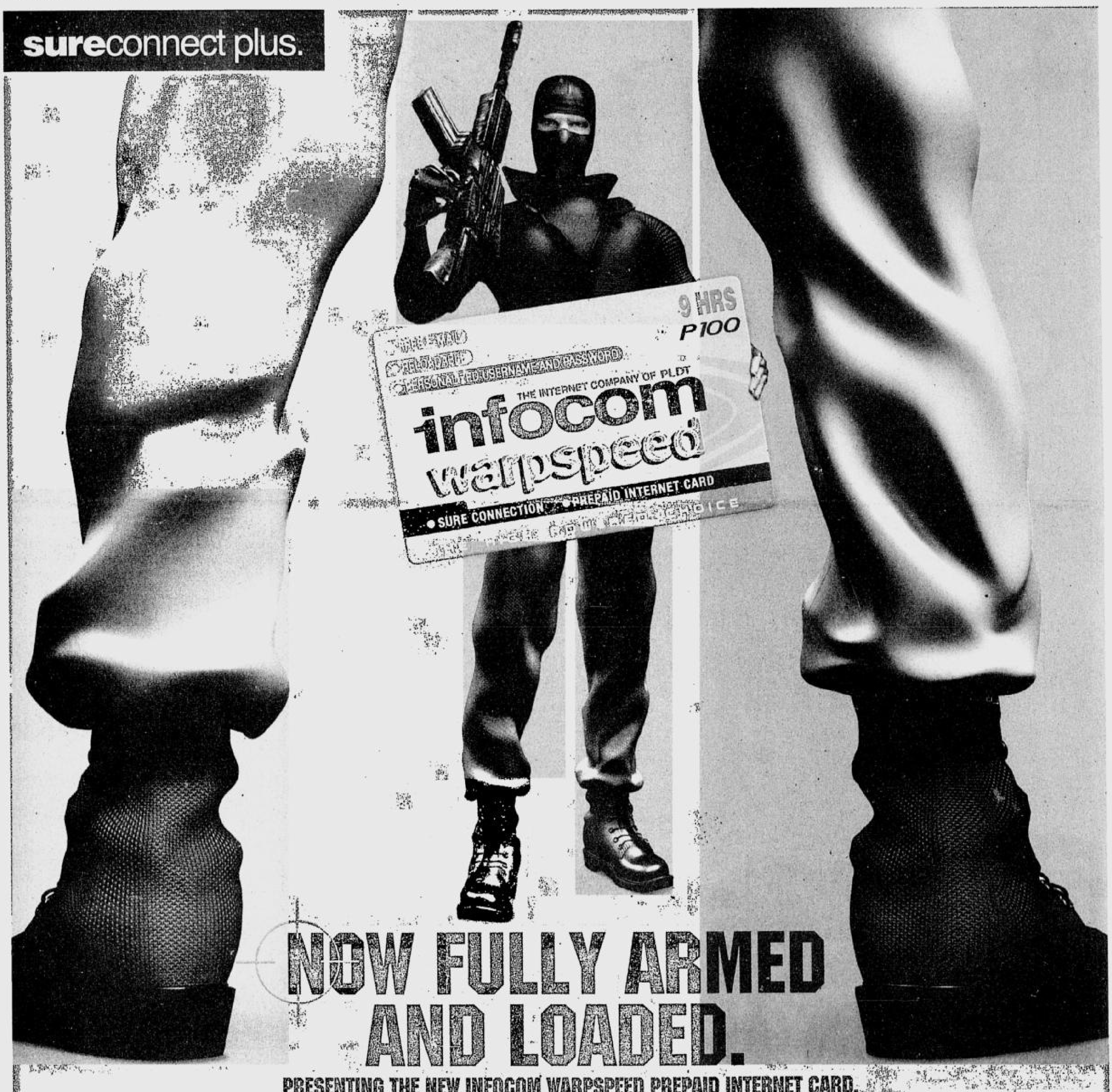
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THE HIGH-POWERED CHOICE

Peter Kairuz faces the future with confidence

By Mona Gonzalez

YOU know the thrill some people get when they see a celebrity in person? Some people may wave, take photos, or even scream. That definitely doesn't happen when the celebrity is Peter Kairuz.

Local version

—Peter who? The guy who co-hosts the local version of the "700 Club."

"After 16 months of doing the show, some Christians recognize me," Peter says. "If they approach me, I ask if they have a prayer request." And when they can't think of any, Peter will leave them his cell number saying, "When you think of something you'd like me to pray for, text me."

At other times, a stranger will boldly ask, "Do you wanna pray now?" And Peter will say, "Yes. Right now." It has happened in restaurants. "More than the show itself, it's things like these that are blessings for me," Peter says.

Peter is primarily a businessman, and works as president of Startrans International Logistics. Nonetheless, "700 Club" has changed him in many ways.

More prayerful

"The show has put me on my guard," Peter says. "I have to drive more carefully, and I can't lose my cool. I'm more prayerful because someone might recognize me, and I want to be approachable. I smile constantly at strangers. I juts pray that if it's a lady, she won't think I'm making pass at her," he laughs.

Starting the first week of November, "700 Club" will move to ABS-CBN at 12:30 a.m., Monday to Friday. Wednesday will feature the local "700 Club," while the other days will have Pat Robertson's version. On Saturdays it's "The Cube," another local production by CBN Asia for a younger market.

Peter joined the "700 Club" when it reformatted. "They wanted to reach a younger marker, so they got Carla Martinez, Tricia Amper Jimenez. Myles Osolio and myself," Peter recalls.

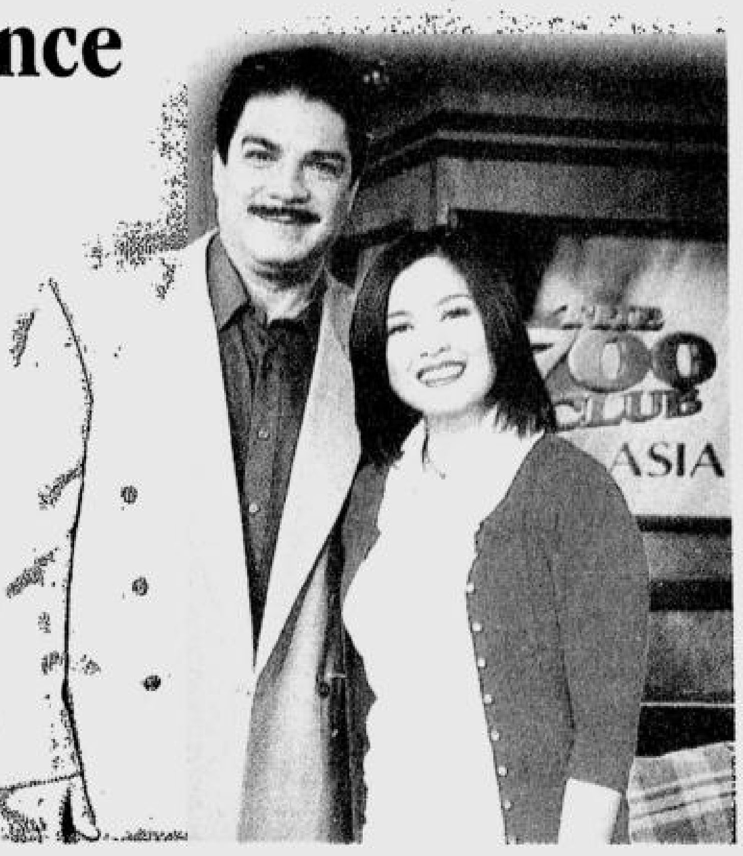
How does the local "700 Club" compare to its foreign counterpart? "The local version caters to the CD marker," Peter says, "so we are encouraged to speak more Tagalog. We notice that the local version also gets more calls from viewers."

Problem

Peter's Tagalog is not bad, since he was born and raised in the Philippines. His father, who was born in Lebanon, grew up in Vigan. "My Dad said the boat he rode was bound for New York, but there was a problem so all Lebanese and Syrians on board ended up here."

Peter is very much in love with his wife Christine, who brought him to the Lord in 1987. "My business required me to take clients out at night and entertain them—and I loved it. I was very worldly—I drank, smoke heavily, and went to nightspots."

He got caught up in the nightlife and would come home drunk. Christine was angry and constantly nagged him. But when she became a Christian, she changed. "She would love and appreciate me—in spite of everything," Peter recalls.



KAIRUZ with "700 Club" co-host Tricia Amper Jimenez.

On her birthday, Christine asked him to go to church with her, as her birthday gift. "I thought, 'Great—I don't even have to spend for a gift.' Christine was an international flight attendant, so she was used to having expensive things, and I always wanted to impress her," Peter recalls. But when he went with her to church, his life changed. "I kept coming back. I received Christ on the second meeting."

Now his idea of relaxing is to go out every week with Christine, usually to Tagaytay, for lunch. "We go to Santi's, Sonya's Garden or Josephine's," Peter says. "Sometimes, we just buy something and eat in the car."

Dark force

What are his "Kodak moments" from the show? Peter cites the first time that Dulce guested and shared how her mother had once made a pact with a dark force (she's now a Christian). "Up till then, Dulce couldn't understand why her family had so many trials," Peter says. He adds that the episode registered the highest number of callers, even when it was replayed. "There is power in truth," he intones.

And then, there was their Halloween episode: "We invited pastors who'd experienced deliverance," Peter narrates. "And just before the show started, things went wrong—the video system suddenly would go on the blink, then the sound would disappear." But that night, there were many deliverances because of the show. "It was a powerful time," Peter says.

Now Peter faces a new challenge, as "700 Club" moves to ABS-CBN. But he is not worried. Peter says, "The Bible says that if you are called to God's purpose, all things will work for your good."

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Vilma Santos stars in new TV-film projects

From page C1

make sure that it would end up as the drama show to beat on the local TV screen. Trouble was, soaps take three days per week to shoot, and Vilma couldn't get away from her duties for that long a stretch each week.

So, she had to say no to the soap—but she's agreed to do a weekly TV "dramedy" for ABS-CBN. This is still a very good deal for the veteran actress' loyal followers.

And, in a sense, it makes her comeback vehicle on TV different from Nora and Lorna's, because she won't be limited to just one basic situation, and can thus have more chances to show off different aspects of her thespic persona.

Shoo-in

We hope that Vilma's new TV starrer will start telecasting before the end of the year, because it would complement her big year-ender movie, "Dekada '70," a shoo-in as an official entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival, which is set to unreel during the Christmas season.

That one-two, TV-movie punch would generate maximum audience impact and excitement, and make even younger viewers want to see for themselves what this renewed fuss over Vilma Santos is all about.

And, chances are, they'll like what they see. Vilma may already be in her late 40s, but she's kept herself looking, thinking and feeling relatively young, and is still quite optimistic and dynamic. She isn't called the Star for All Seasons for nothing, after all.

Credible

Especially in "Dekada '70," where she has scenes set two or three decades back, so she has to be credible as a woman in her 30s. But, with the help of director Chito Roño's top-notch production team, she should be able to pull it off.

The end result of all this should be renewed popularity for Vilma, despite the fact that her acting career is no longer her top priority. If younger viewers end up discovering the actress' strongest points, which her followers have known all along, 2002 could end up, quite unexpectedly, as one of Vilma's best years yet.

Notable performances on 'Asap's' 'The Big Event'

By Noelani Torre

We don't usually watch noontime variety shows, at least not all the way through, but we made an exception with "Asap's" "The Big Event" since ABS-CBN said it was supposed to be extra-special.

"The Big Event" was more or less the network's celebratory party for its having been named the country's No. 1 network for the 15th straight year. It was actually the usual variety show song and dance, only longer and with more celebrities and performances.

Duets

Some of the performances stood out from the rest, notable Gary Valenciano's solo and three duets with Ariel Rivera, Pops Fernandez, and Carol Banawa. Gary, who is a consummate performer, wowed viewers with his superb rendering of "Kailangan Kita," which is the theme song of the Aga Muhlach-Claudine Barretto starrer of the same title. Leaner than ever and brimming with enthusiasm, he injected a much-needed dose of energy into the show.

Carol Banawa managed to carry her own weight in "Natutulog Ba Ang Diyos?" her duet with Gary, resulting in a very satisfying number. It's always good to hear two well-matched and complementary voices, and to watch performers whose eyes are not continuously seeking out the idiot board's whereabouts.

Ariel Rivera was not quite a match for Gary's tenor in their rendering of "Sana'y Maulit Muli," however, though that was evident in only a few brief falsetto moments for the former. Though his range isn't as high, nobody's disputing the fact that he really can sing.

Pops carried herself off well enough in "Narito Ang Puso Ko," and thus we feel justified in judging these four song numbers to be the best in the bunch.

Real singers

Another notable performance occurred earlier in the show and this was Aiza Seguerra's song number with Roselle Nava and Ariel Rivera. All three are real singers (meaning, they can carry a tune *and* project it farther than their own noses, a feat which non-singers cannot accomplish), though it was Aiza who dominated while the other two played "supporting" roles.

We find Aiza's singing as refreshing as before. In these times where good singing is defined in terms of Maria Carey-esque vocal gymnastics (which are lovely, but tiresome after a while), her cool and simple style is a breath of fresh air.

One performance that almost entered our notables list was that of Roselle Nava and Carol Banawa, and the Red Circle band. Carol and Roselle delivered some quite competent singing, with a touch of those vocal gymnastics we mentioned earlier, but the Red Circle band's female vocals attempted the feat—and failed. The result was a particularly jarring note that tumbled what might have been an okay performance.

That would probably be it for the singing part, though we'd like to add that we applaud the show's director for cleverly pairing up the singers with the not-really-singers in several numbers (for example: Vina Morales, Ciara Sotto, Amy Austria, Carmina Villaroel, Pops Fernandez, and Agot Isidro).

Lonely honor

As for the dance numbers, we're sorry to say that we only have one item on our "notable performance" list. That lonely honor is reserved for the Streetboys, all of whom may not be movie-star handsome (or cute) but who sure as heck can dance. And when you're doing a dance number, *that* is all that matters.

We would also like to cite the backup dancers for their overshadowed but still notable performances in all the dance numbers. Some of them might have exhibited more enthusiasm than skill, but as a whole they were pretty good—they kept the rhythm, knew the steps, and moved with suitable grace.

Midway through the show, we realized how inundated we were by celebrity names! Nora would be coming, they said, also Vilma, Dolphy, Fernando Poe Jr. and dozens of other stars.

Opportunity

Already there on the show were the younger and youngest stars. If nothing else, "Asap's" "The Big Event" provided us with the opportunity to get acquainted with the newest "famous" names and faces, some of whom we didn't even know existed.

We were looking forward to seeing Nora, Vilma, FPJ, Dolphy, and their equally famed colleagues, but unfortunately, only Ate Guy showed up, Of course, Nora Aunor is Nora Aunor, and the audience was delirious at her entrance. There she was in a white suit, her petite stature and tanned skin making her stand out from the backdrop of taller, paler figures that were the rest of the stars. She, of course, is the *superstar.*

We were also looking forward to hearing her sing, because nobody can deny the power and feeling that her legendary voice has, but what we got was a lip-synched version that just wasn't the same. So, quite unfortunately, Nora's performance doesn't enter our list of notable performances on "Asap's" "The Big Event."

VALENCIANO. Consummate performer.

SEGUERRA. Cool and simple.

Food for thought

MOST restaurants serve food for the stomach, but others offer both food for the body and food for thought. Here are some interesting proverbs printed on the paper placemat of Kamat, a vegetarian restaurant in Dubai, UAE:

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Mistake

An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.

A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized.

The stupid neither forgive nor forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget.

Our incomes are like our shoes; if too small, they gall and pinch us; but if too large, they cause us to stumble and trip.

All wish to possess knowledge, but few, comparatively speaking, are willing to pay the price.

It is easy to learn something about everything, but difficult to learn everything about anything.

Revenge

The best sort of revenge is not to be like him who did the injury.

Money talks, but it doesn't say when it's coming back.

You know your body's getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.

You know you've reached middle age when weightlifting consists merely of standing up.

Some people think they are generous because they give away free advice.

Reputation is a large bubble that bursts when you try to blow it up yourself.

One thing about easy money is that it's about as easy to spend as it is to make.

Crooked

At first we thought the world was flat. Next we decided it was round. Today we know it is crooked.

Optimism: A cheerful frame of mind that enables a tea kettle to sing in hot water up to its nose.

What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Zoo: A place devised for animals to study the habits of human beings.

Laugh: A smile that burst.

Tactful person: One who comes to your house and makes you feel at home.

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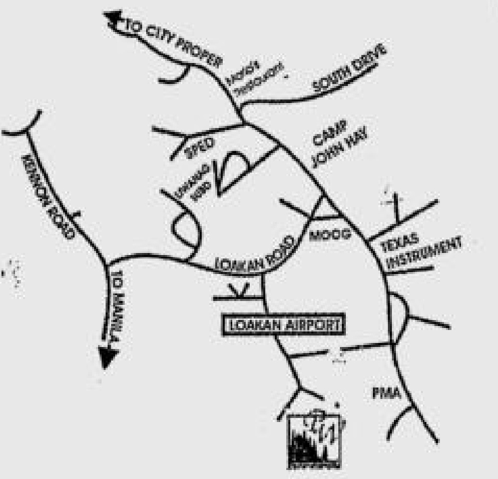

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Search on for next National Artist for Film

By Nestor U. Torre

THE COUNTRY has produced quite a number of gifted film directors, but only four—Lamberto Avellana, Gerry de Leon, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal—have been officially hailed as National Artists for Film.

ROMERO. Continues to be productive more than 60 years after he started working in the movies.

Deliberations

With deliberations ongoing for the next batch of National Artists, movie people are hoping that the most deserving film artist(s) will be selected by the experts in the field charged with this important task.

Various names are being floated by proponents within the movie industry, including Eddie Romero, Mike de Leon, Manuel Conde, Gregorio Fernandez, Manuel Silos, Ramon Estella, Jose Nepomuceno and Octavio Silos.

Most of these filmmakers deserve to be given the country's ultimate artistic honor. But the artists who have passed away may be at a disadvantage because most of their best works are no longer extant, and that makes it difficult for evaluators who did not watch them years ago, when they were still available, to truly appreciate their importance and significance.

Retrospectives

We have viewed some of the best films of Conde, Fernandez and Manuel Silos in retrospectives held decades ago, so we believe that they should eventually be hailed as National Artists. For the next deliberations, however, the frontrunners could be the two excellent filmmakers who are still with us, actively directing exceptional TV-film projects.

In particular, we admire Romero's work because he has been writing and/or directing outstanding films for more than 60 years. What a great achievement! And he continues to be productive: earlier this year, he conceptualized, produced and directed some episodes of "Diwa," a comprehensive historical series on the time-tested values that make us truly Filipino.

Outstanding films

His outstanding films include "Buhay Alamang," Ang Prinsesa at ang Pulubi," "Passionate Strangers," "Manila: Open City," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kaya Ngayon," "Aguila" and "Kamakalawa." And his 1993 TV version of Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" is being reissued on TV, so that a new generation of young viewers can benefit from it.

In addition, Romero is a cultural force not just in the movies, but also in our society as a whole. His effort to dramatize human experience in its multifarious facets has illuminated and inspired many viewers. Finally, Romero is an inspiration to younger film artists due to his six decades of devoted service to his art and its audience.

For his part, Mike de Leon is only in his 50s and has directed less than 10 films, but most of them have been choice.

Diversity

His masterworks include "Itim," "Batch '81," "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising," "Kisapmata," "Sister Stella L," "Kakabakaba Ka Ba? and "Bayaning Third World"—a stunning diversity of film types that demonstrate his consummate artistry and versatility as a film director. He is, in fact, the most consistently superior filmmaker we have.

But he has many more productive years ahead of him, and his forthcoming films will surely enhance his achievement all the more. In our view, it's Eddie Romero who more than fully deserves to be hailed as our next National Artist for Film. We hope that he will be given this signal honor to demonstrate the nation's gratitude to him for an art well lived.

Liza Diño plays Ara Mina's chum in 'Two-Timer'

DIÑO. Not eager to join the "boldwagon."

By Edmund L. Sicam

LIZA Diño is best known as the beauty queen-endorser of Likas Papaya herbal soap. She is also a Theater Arts major at the University of the Philippines. She only has one semester more to go, which she intends to use to finish the last few chapters of her thesis. She has appeared in several stage plays at UP and has done some outside work as well. So what is an actress from the legitimate theater doing in a bold movie like "Two-Timer" where she plays the best friend of Ara Mina?

Legitimate

"I find film acting legitimate as well. It's just a different venture. It still comes from truth and sincerity," she says, defending her move. "I've seen our movie's rushes and trailer—*maganda*."

Although she is willing to disrobe if the role absolutely calls for it, she does not do so in this movie. It is Ara who takes care of the sex and nudity, making love to five different men including Albert Martinez and Wendell Ramos.

Liza plays Ara Mina's confidante. "I'm the one who holds the key to all her secrets, because we're childhood friends," she says of her character. The stage actress considers this role as a very good break. She had six days of shooting and is with Ara in most of her sequences.

Liza says she has nothing against bold movies but she is not eager to join the "boldwagon." "I believe I can act without having to undress. I'm willing to wait."

LIZA/ C6

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Life is always worth living

FACE TO FACE
Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Perhaps the beauty of life is clearest when the reality of death is keenest. How else can I explain my desire to talk to you about the beauty of life at this time when death pervades all our thoughts?

Cemeteries

Today is All Souls Day. As everybody troops to cemeteries all over the country to once more wine and dine, play poker or mahjongg, or just party all day and all night with those who have passed on, I'd like to ponder on one of God's greatest blessings—life.

Truth to tell, Clara, death has crossed my mind many times in the past. Like, when I was a child—rebellious and recalcitrant as I was then—I thought of killing myself each time Lala and Lolo Nich gave me a severe scolding. It wasn't that I was manic-depressive and had suicidal tendencies—I just wanted to see if they'd cry if I died. Of course, I never got around to even attempting it because, after all, how could I still see them—or their tears—when I'd already be dead?

When your dad and I had that big, big fight—remember?—my eyes were drenched with tears and my heart by alcohol. I put the nozzle of a loaded gun in my mouth and pulled the trigger. The gun did not explode. I didn't know why.

Barbiturates

There was also one particularly sad evening when I thought of putting on my best make-up, wearing my most expensive dress, downing a few bottles of barbiturates and then drifting away to eternal sleep.

But then, I was so mad at your dad that I thought, why should I allow him to win our battle of wits by default? So, I resolved to live just so I could make his life a living hell.—Until we reknotted the severed threads of our lives and finally settled down to being friends again.

Today, I don't think of killing myself anymore. I mean, I already had a double heart bypass in 1996, a dislocated shoulder in 1999, and total renal breakdown this year—if God wanted me to go, He'd have allowed it to happen in more conventional ways!

There must be a reason why I'm still alive—and I have no cause to even contemplate ending what God Himself has decreed to extend!

I've had people come up to me and say they admire my courage to go on living despite the seriousness of my condition. Well, they totally miss the point. For one, I have to courageously go on living precisely because of the seriousness of my condition. For another, my condition is really *not* that serious. I heard a cancer patient quip once, "Cancer is just a word. It is not a sentence."

Aggravations

God is, in fact, so good, that He affords me to have quality of life despite the aggravations. And He allows me to see how truly blessed I am amidst all the difficulties. Indeed, my dearest daughter, life is always worth living.

But there are times now more than ever, Clara, when I have certain regrets about how I lived my life. Had I known then what I do now, I'd have taken better care of myself. And I'd have invested more on the things that really matter.

Like, I wouldn't even have touched a cigarette! I would have watched closely what I ate and drank. I would have done everything in moderation. I wouldn't have put up with so much stress and distress in my life.

And I'd have recognized early on the value of a positive attitude. Such a pity, but it's really only lately that I've realized that we are the sum total of the choices and decisions resulting from the attitudes in our minds and hearts.

If we decide to keep a warehouse of all our resentments, angers, fears, anxieties, jealousies, grudges and all other ill feelings, then we choose to be defined by what is negative and destructive—and it is this that will most assuredly negate and destroy us.

On the other hand, if we decide to focus on our joys and the things that make us smile and laugh, we allow ourselves to be ruled by what is positive, which builds and uplifts and affirms us.

And remember this, my dearest daughter, there is an innate goodness in every human being—sometimes, we just choose not to find it. There is always something to love in even the most abominable person. But we'll never see it if we have already made the choice to hate.

New meaning

Another thing I've discovered to be of premium value, my precious one, is the memory of a touch—of people connecting with other people, of brothers and sisters forever finding new meaning in the tightness of a hug and the silky softness of a kiss, of kindred spirits linked by a primordial bond that defies temporal boundaries of mere emotions.

Sometimes, we are tempted to perform elaborate rituals that mark our relationships with people. But the measure of all this is really not on the physical but on how deep the touch has been. Sometimes, there are things we do that don't connect—and there are things we don't do that do.

Like, a child would forget the balloons, cakes, toys and other gifts she got for her seventh birthday—but she'd always remember if her mother wasn't there. Long after she had conquered the world, she'd still have a vivid memory of her father's smile as he pinned her medals on graduation day on her bodice, but not of the elaborate food they ate at the victory dinner later.

Another thing that enriches life and makes it beautiful is the cause we allow to fire us up. It's quite natural for people to aspire for wealth and prosperity and all the things by which the world measures success—but time will come when a person should make a difference in the life of another, for his own life to matter.

Pot of gold

Don't forever seek the rainbow's end, my beloved Clara—life's pot of gold is not found there. It is in the heart of every person whose life has changed for the better because of the gift that you have been to him. But choose your cause, my cherished child. Ensure that it builds and doesn't destroy you. Don't go chasing after winds that do not know where they must go. If you must, follow the wind but only to power your wings.

Yes, Clara, life is always worth living—and worth living well. Because life is how you make it.

I made a colossal mess of it. I woke up one morning to find that it had become one huge heap that I didn't know where and how to begin to make sense of. But you don't have to travel my road. You don't have to sing my songs.

By the way, Clara, I'm not going to the cemetery today. I might miss Lala, Lolo Nich and Uncle Victor so much that I'd want to join them. God knows, I still have a lot to do before my time is up!

For your insights and comments: <badids2000@yahoo.com>

ABS-CBN programming . . .

From page C7

safety administrator who tries to reconnect with his departed daughter. "Night Vision" is another Tagalized series on the supernatural which debuts Monday, Nov. 4 right after "Alias."

Meanwhile, "MTB" recently celebrated ABS-CBN's decade and a half of leadership with a star-studded offering focused on the many memorable moments that the Filipino audience has shared with ABS-CBN over the years.

Given 15-year leadership awards were Sharon Cuneta, Noli de Castro, Korina Sanchez, Gloria Romero and Nova Villa. Ten-year ABS-CBN veterans include Dolphy, Charo Santos, Aga Muhlach, Martin Nievera, Kris Aquino, Pops Fernandez, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Herbert Bautista, Claudine Barretto, Randy Santiago, Ariel Rivera and John Estrada.

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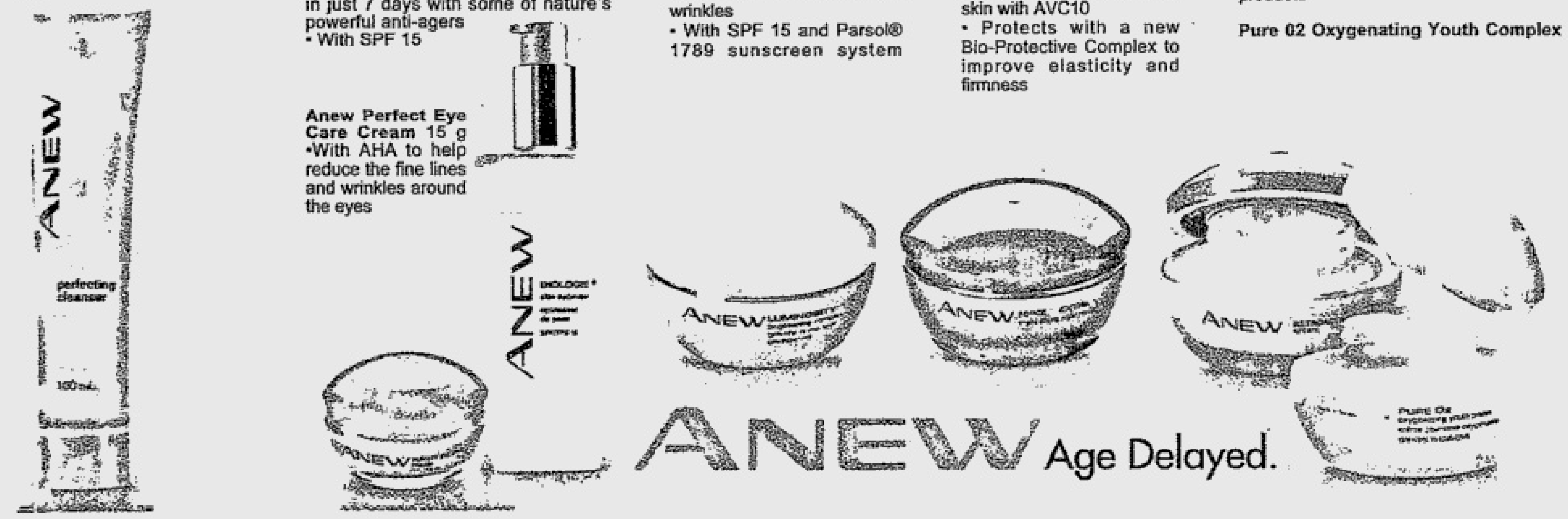

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Stellar confrontations light up the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

"DIE Another Day," the new James Bond spy caper, is clearly Pierce Brosnan's film—but the fact that Halle Berry is sharing some scenes with him could shift the movie's stellar focus in unexpected ways!

Exceptional

Halle is an exceptional female star because she's able to combine great physical appeal and a finely-honed thespic talent, as proven in her past starrers, and by the Oscar best actress trophy she romped off with last year.

That's why greater care has been taken with Bond's character in this, the 20th outing for the very profitable film franchise. Scriptwriters Neal Purvis and Robert Wade were tasked by director Lee Tamahori to make Bond "a character rather than the usual caricature, and to explore the darker side of his mystique."

They also thought it "would be nice to get back to a bit more of the glamour and scale of some of the earlier Bond movies," Purvis adds.

"Some recent installments have been too realistic, perhaps forgetting that a part of the legacy are those over-the-top elements that you would never get in the usual action movie—like the villain's lair and the world-domination aspect of it.".

Savvy

Great, but we'll be looking out for Halle Berry, as will many viewers. Let's hope Pierce Brosnan is savvy enough to know what she's capable of—and to keep his thespic tail covered!

"DIE ANOTHER DAY." Pierce Brosnan covers Halle Berry in diamonds.

"TRAPPED." Charlize Theron has a lot of tricks up her sleeve.

Meanwhile, in "Trapped," the stellar confrontation is even more intense: Charlize Theron plays a young mother whose child is kidnapped by a complex, troubled and dangerous man (Kevin Bacon). At first, it would seem like Bacon's character has all the advantages, but Theron's love for her daughter makes her dig deep into herself, to discover a strength she never knew she had.

Bacon confirms this major test of wills when he says, "There's a real face-off between my character and Charlize's. I've been able to keep most women under my thumb, but she's got a lot of tricks up her sleeve. And she's got a lot of interesting ideas about how she's going to win this game—she turns everything upside down!"

More interesting

But no way is Bacon going to end up as an also-ran in this confrontation. The writers of "Trapped" have made sure that he comes off as much more interesting than the usual villain:

Tormented by a past tragedy, Bacon's character reasons away the pain he inflicts on others by resorting to a fantasy of "heroic vengeance." In his warped mind, his actions are guided by "humane love" for his innocent victim! He's no cliché, cartoon bad-guy character, but a very complex person.

"That's part of his tragedy," Bacon says. "He's living with a tremendous amount of pain and anger, and the kidnapping is an extension of that."

Finally, in "The Transporter," the test takes a much more physical turn as new action-adventure star Jason Statham fights off a number of menacing villains.

Courier

Statham plays an ex-Special Forces man who is acting as a courier. The trouble starts when he disobeys orders and looks inside the package he's supposed to deliver. Thugs are then sent out to get him any way they can, to make sure that the secret he's uncovered dies with him!

Despite his being a new star, Statham already enjoys a good reputation in the movie world, thanks to his textured and dynamic performances in the films he's appeared in thus far—"Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" by Guy Ritchie, "The One" by James Wong, and "Ghosts of Mars" by John Carpenter. "The Transporter" is directed by another ace action-adventure director, Corey Yuen.

Kristine lands endorsement despite intrigue

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN Kristine Hermosa went on an extended vacation after her soap "Pangako Sa 'Yo" ended, tongues started wagging as they usually do when an actress disappears from the scene.

Rumor

One rumor said she was pregnant and that the father was a TV network executive. Kristine just shrugs off the nasty talk at the presscon for Head and Shoulders shampoo, which has signed her up as product endorser. "Okay *na ako. Alam ko naman kasi yung totoo. Kahit malaman ko kung saan nagsimula, ano'ng magagawa ko? Ano, aawayin ko siya? Hindi ako ganun.*"

What does she say about another rumor that it was Jericho who said she was pregnant? "Of course not. *Kilala ko si* Jericho, *ilang* years *na kaming magkasama.* So, *hindi ako naniniwala na sasabihin yun ni* Echo."

Kristine was therefore extremely thankful to Head and Shoulders for sticking with her. "*Alam naman nila na hindi totoo, hindi sila natakot,* they took the risk *na kunin pa rin ako. Sobrang* grateful *ako.*"

Footsteps

So what does it feel like, following the footsteps of other endorsers of the product, like G Toengi? "*Maganda sila, di ba?* Feeling *ko, maganda din ako,*" she giggles.

"*Matagal ko nang gustong magkaroon ng* shampoo commercial. Also, convinced *ako sa* product. *Yun yung importante, di ba? Pag nag-*endorse *ka, kailangan* convinced *ka, para mas natural.*"

After "Pangako Sa Yo" ended, Kristine took a well-deserved two-week vacation in Japan. Why Japan? "*Kasi andun ang* Disneyland. *Hindi ako sumakay ng mga* rides . . . *Nagpunta lang ako doon para maghintay ng mga* Disney characters *na lumabas, at nagpa-*picture *ako sa kanila. Hindi ako takot sa* rides, *mas* enjoy *lang ako sa ganon.*"

HERMOSA. Well-deserved break.

So, what did she learn from her vacation? "*Na-*miss *ko yung trabaho ko. Na-*feel *ko yung pagiging* regular *na tao... Yung hindi ka laging ngarag,* or show biz *parati yung kaharap mo, lagi kang maayos, ang daming* expectations. *Nabawasan yung* load *ko.*"

Habits

Unfortunately, there are still some habits she can't break—she still wakes up at 6 a.m., the time she would wake up to go to tapings for "Pangako." She's not sure what ABS-CBN has planned for her, but she does hope for another soap. Right now, she's touring for Maxipeel with Echo, to places like Naga City, Cebu and Davao.

And, she's set to start shooting for her next movie, also with Jericho as her leading man.

Liza Diño plays Ara Mina's chum in 'Two-Timer'

From page C4

She says it may sound like a cliché, but if she is given the right script and a good director, she won't have any qualms about undressing in front of the camera. "If I know that it's essential, *parang* 'Boys Don't Cry', I'll do it," declares the beauty queen.

Her venture into show biz started after she won the title of Mutya ng Pilipinas Tourism International in 2001. "They found out I was a stage actress so I guested in 'Your Honor' and 'Recuerdo de Amor,'" Liza tells us. Then of course, there is her famous Likas Papaya soap commercial.

Workshop

Then, while taking a workshop at the CCP, she met director Mel Chionglo, who told her about a movie that was coming up. Soon after, she met Francis Villacorta, who is now her agent. Lisa's next career move is joining a new soap opera, "Hawak Ko ang Langit," with Assunta de Rossi, Ana Capri, Regine Tolentino and Anne Curtis, which will start taping this month.

Liza also says that she is doing a play with Richard Quan, "Asawa," by Rene Villanueva. She was also part of the stage play "Larawan" with Anton Juan and Behn Cervantes, where she played a senator's daughter.

Liza can dance as well. She trained with Powerdance. Can she sing? She grins, "I can carry a tune."

The stage actress finds show business very fulfilling, and also financially rewarding. "It's a big bonus that you get paid for what you do, but it's more fulfilling that you are getting paid for something you *like* to do!" she says.

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When PR professionals meet

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LAST Sept. 25 to 27, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, or PRSP, held its 10th National Public Relations Congress, with the timely theme, "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development."

Trend

Juris Soliman, Cemex Philippines Corporate PR and chairperson of National Public Relations Week, wrote in her message, "Worldwide, the trend points to more and more businesses being called upon to adopt, as part of their core business strategy, the conscientious promotion of development without damaging the environment."

PRSP president Winston A. Marbella, a respected hand in the game, also stated that the theme of the Congress defines perhaps the two most controversial issues that corporations have had to deal with in recent years.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo added in her own message that the choice of the twin themes is a laudable way of taking cognizance of the association's role in building and keeping a highly technical and capable human resource in the field of public relations.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas saw public relations playing a key role, especially in guiding organizations to take the initiative and ensure that all stakeholders lend their support to the effort.

Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye sent a message wishing that the PRSP would not only continue performing its vital role of fostering goodwill and cooperation among different institutions, but would also find common cause with the Filipino people in dealing with various problems to make the Philippines a better nation.

Accreditation system

A key development discussed by these professionals is the need for a PR accreditation system. A good PR professional is expected to have a strategic overview and a good grasp of many disciplines, a good perception of development, and to be conversant with management, marketing, finance, advertising, sales promotions, ethics and social sciences.

Rate structure

Indeed, an accreditation system is also seen as an effective instrument in recommending a rate structure of compensation for public relations executives in business and industry. In 1995, PRSP established a Voluntary Accreditation Program, where members with at least three years of professional practice may earn "accredited" status by passing written and oral examinations.

Upon successful completion of the examinations, individuals may use the letters APR (Accredited in Public Relations) after their names.

For membership and APR accreditation, please call PRSP Secretariat at tel. nos. 636-3242 or 636-3243 or email prsp@edsamail.com.ph or prmanila@info.com.ph.

Email the author at mn_phtocom@i-manila.com.ph or call tel. nos. 522-5185, 522-5189 and 522-1905.

MAX Edralin, Evelyn del Rosario and Danny Gozo at the Congress.

FROM left, Pete Padre, Alex Escucha, Danny Gozo, Rene Nieva, Jimmy Ong, Bert Pasquin, Tess Villacorta and Winston Marbella.

ABS-CBN programming treats for last quarter of 2002

By Remy M. Umerez

"ALIAS." Made more accessible to local viewers.

"EXPECT new shows. must-see specials and tribute presentations from ABS-CBN," said Pat-P Daza-Planas, the network's director for corporate and public relations and communications, before she led us to a preview room for the screening of "Alias," an action-packed drama which has been Tagalized for Filipino viewers.

Trend

ABS-CBN set the trend for Tagalog dubbing with the cartoon series "Cedie" and "Sara, Ang Munting Prinsesa" in 1991. In "Alias," international spies speaking in colloquial Tagalog makes the show more accessible to local viewers.

The story is focused on Sydney Bristow (Jennifer Garner), a 26-year-old graduate student who leads a double life. She is a high-level spy who turns to the CIA when her life is threatened by the agency she's been working for.

Meanwhile, the latest adventures of brilliant businesswoman Beatriz Pinzon Solano (Ana Maria Orozco) in "Ecomoda" air daily at 11:30 a.m. This is the sequel to "Betty La Fea," whose lead character has assumed presidency of struggling fashion firm Eco Moda. Her new adversary is Gabriela Garza (Lorena Meritano) who also happens to be a success in the textile industry and a woman who puts even Betty's workaholic habits to shame. Old nemesis Daniel Valencia (Luis Mesa) continues to mistrust Betty's efforts.

Quest

Inspired by supernatural series like "The Twilight Zone" and "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "Night Visions" brings Hollywood's hot stars and directors on a quest for horrifying episodes of horror.

In the pilot episode, Aidan Quinn plays an air

ABS/ C4

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- Images of Singapore and The Merlion on Sentosa
- Singapore Discovery Centre
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- Gloria Jean's Tea-&-Tour at CHIJMES
- Shopping at Funan The IT Mall (Shopping vouchers for the first 100 early birds only)

⁺Terms and conditions apply.

In Singapore, the weeks between 2 November 2002 and 15 February 2003 are the year's most colourful. It's a huge experience of events, lights, tastes and irresistible shopping. And the best part is, every visitor gets ₱6,800 (SGD240) worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for the trip! Ask your travel agent for details.

Singapore
www.visitsingapore.com

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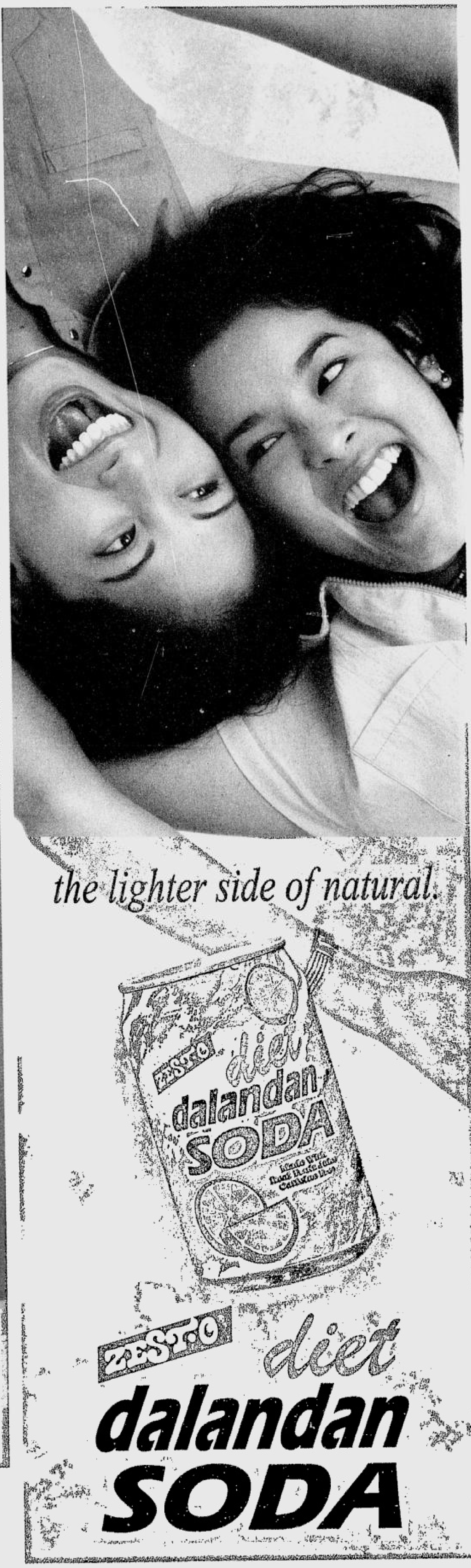

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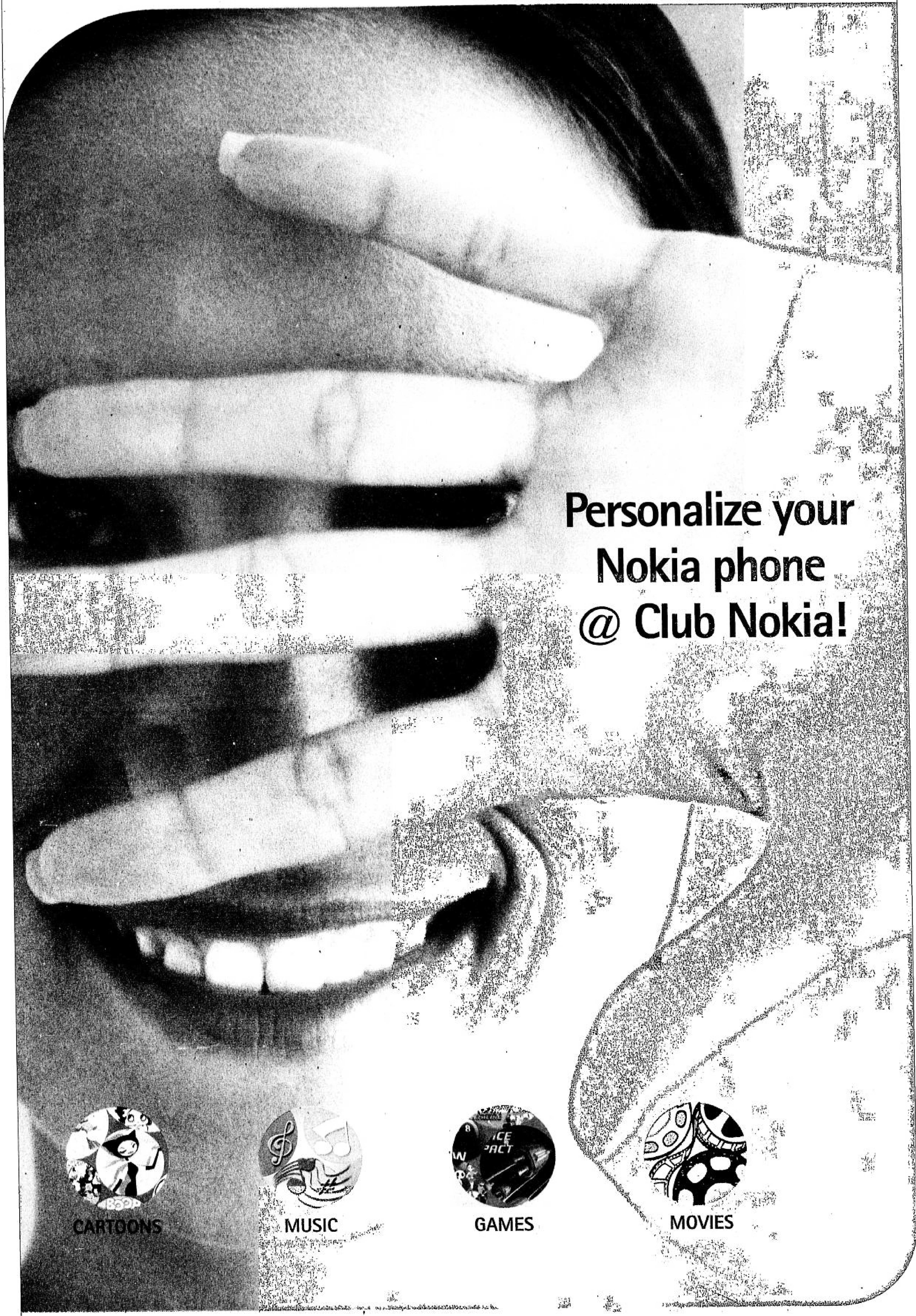
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SATURDAY Special

Young stars have great time shooting 'Harry Potter' sequel

By Paul Majendie

WATSON, RADCLIFFE AND GRINT. The bond they've forged will "never be broken."

LONDON—The bond between the world's three most famous child actors is unbreakable—they are still having a great time in the Harry Potter movies.

Stardom

"I wouldn't have swapped this experience for anything," said Daniel Radcliffe, whose role as the bespectacled wizard propelled him to stardom in "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone."

With next month's launch of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" he and co-stars Emma Watson and Rupert Grint are back in the full glare of the media spotlight. None of them is blinking.

Radcliffe, a self-possessed and confident 13-year-old, said: "I think everyone who has worked on these films has grown, even the adults. And the bond I've forged, particularly with Emma and Rupert, will never be broken." The first film grossed $965 million at the box office, a total topped only by "Titanic." With millions of devoted Potter fans hooked, Warner Bros. is confident of another bonanza.

But what of the children on whose young shoulders so much rests? They have spent some 300 days in front of the cameras in the past two years—but their appetite for starting the third Potter movie is undiminished.

Pizza parties

Radcliffe insists: "I think my life has changed surprisingly little. I do normal kids' stuff. I have pizza parties and get my friends together and just be lazy boys."

Watson, 12, who plays prim and bossy Hermione, said: "Obviously, I am recognized in the street. I am away from home a lot more, and I even have an action figure of myself. But apart from that, I am trying to keep my life as normal as possible."

Grint, the 14-year-old who plays the cheeky Ron, comes across as the most laid-back of all. "I get recognized sometimes and that is really cool," he told a press conference in London to launch the new movie.

But director Christopher Columbus was quick to issue an avuncular word of warning. Columbus, also known for directing Macaulay Culkin in the comedy hit "Home Alone," said: "For these kids, I suggest that they look at the lives of all the child actors who preceded them in terms of where it didn't work out.

"Why did these kids go wrong? Look at that and then look at people like Jodie Foster and Ron Howard, who were successful." And he told the Potter stars not to hesitate if filming turned into a tedious treadmill: "Then walk away. Quit."

Columbus, now handing over the directorial reins to Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron for the next Potter movie, said: "I have put blood, sweat and tears into these movies. Having a relationship with these kids is one of the great things that have happened to me in my life." *Reuters*

> They have spent some 300 days in front of the cameras in the past two years—but their appetite for starting the third Potter .film is undiminished

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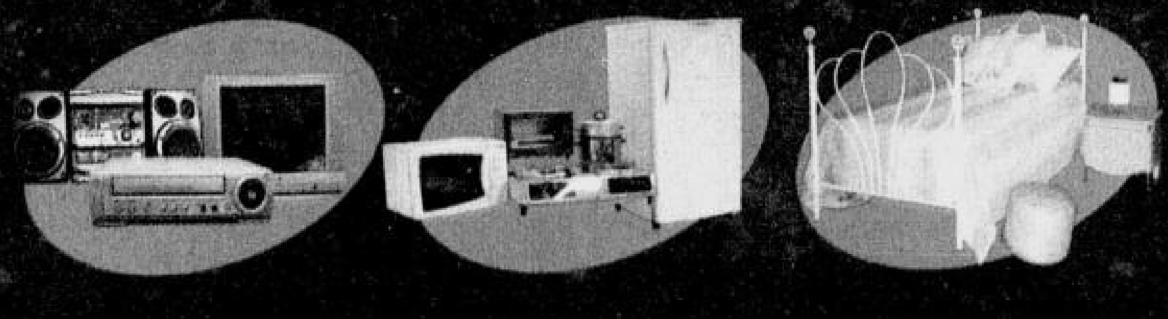

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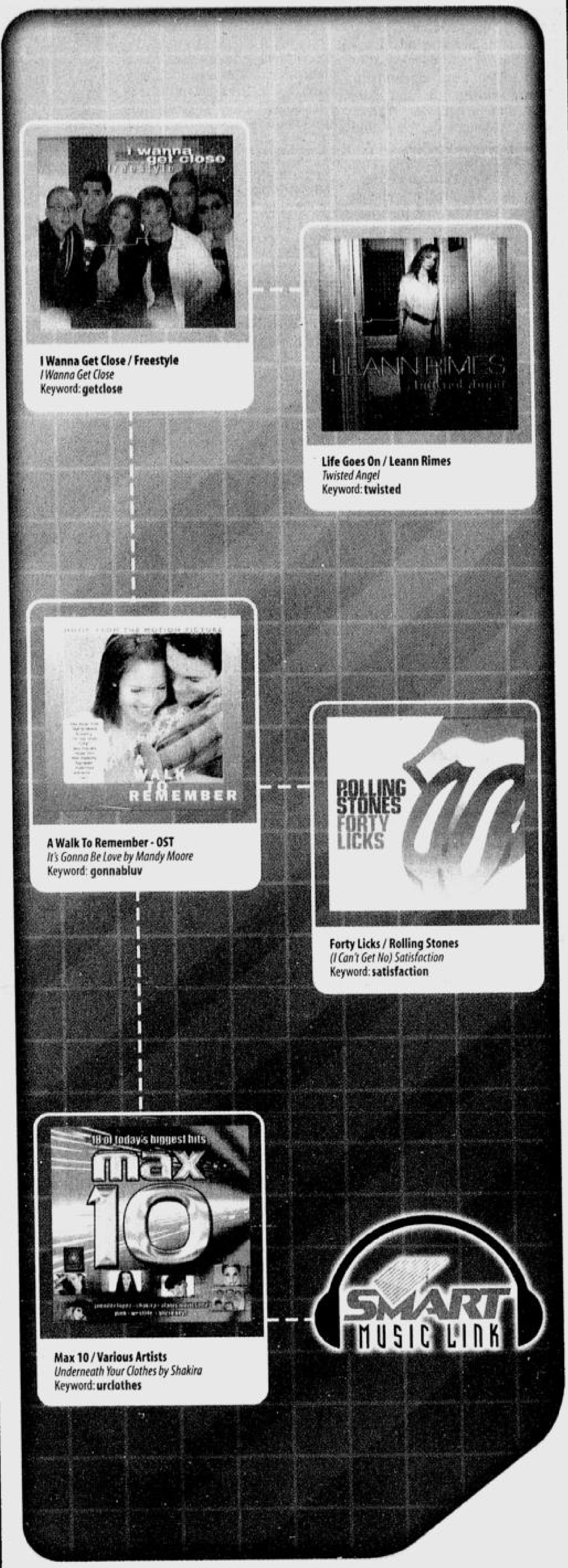

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Hallmark movies uphold family values

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

VIEWERS who are looking for movies on TV that espouse good family values have a number of promising viewing prospects on the Hallmark channel this month:

"The Seventh Stream" (Nov. 3, 9 p.m.) is about a magical, mystical romance that develops between a mysterious woman with uncanny powers (Saffron Burrows) and a widower (Scott Glenn). Although she brightens his world, discord erupts in his little fishing village. The time comes when he must choose between his love for her, and the need for him to set her free. Repeat screenings are on Nov. 4 and 16.

"Falling from Grace" (Nov. 8) chronicles the homecoming of a big rock star to the small town where he grew up. This movie marks the acting and directing debut of popular singing star John Mellencamp, and co-stars Mariel Hemingway as his wife. Replays on Nov. 9 and 21.

"Rocket Gibraltar" (Nov. 9) topbills Burt Lancaster as a family's patriarch in the autumn of his life. He's an ordinary man who's made his existence extraordinary through the lives he's touched, especially those of his grandchildren. Replays on Nov. 10, 22 and 23.

"We Were the Mulvaneys" (Nov. 10; repeats on Nov. 11, 23 and 24) is based on the best-selling novel by Joyce Carol Oates. It shows how a family comes to terms with tragedy, enabling it to heal and grow in the process.

"WE WERE THE MULVANEYS." Shows how a family comes to terms with tragedy.

Pia for M&M

Ever since she started appearing on early-morning TV, Pia Guanio has gone from success to success. Quite quickly, she added other shows to her list of activities, and only a couple of weeks ago, she was one of the hosts of the "Miss Earth" beauty tilt.

Pia is well-liked because she's fresh-faced, natural, bubbly and versatile. It's also a pleasant "change of face" that she looks more Asian than *mestiza.*

Her latest coup is the new M&M commercial, where she plays the "love interest" of the droll candy characters Yellow and Red.

The 30-second spot was created by BBDO Guerrero Ortega and directed by Jorg Schifferer of Unitel Productions.

Pia is a delightful gamin in the commercial, so expect to see her in some other products' TV spots in the future.

GUANIO. Pleasant "change of face."

'I Am Sam' on video

We're glad that the film "I Am Sam" is now out on video. This is an exceptional film about a mentally-challenged man (Sean Penn) whose love for his daughter (Dakota Fanning) pushes him to try to overcome his limitations.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays his lawyer. At first, she doesn't think that he can live up to his obligations as a parent. But, when he shows her that he's prepared to pay any price to ensure his daughter's happiness, she backs him up all the way.

Along with other people who have come to believe in him, she's there when he tries to convince a jury that selfless love is the most precious gift a father can give his child, no matter what his limitations in other aspects of his life may be.

PENN and Pfeiffer in the underrated film, "I Am Sam."

Songs that made the movie screen go zing!

By Behn Cervantes

"A BOY like that . . . who killed your brother. A boy like that will kill another . . ." warn the lyrics of Puerto Rican Anita. She addresses her anger and pain to reckless Maria who has fallen hopelessly in love with the American Tony. Leonard Bernstein's soul-rending music coupled with Stephen Sondheim's evocative lyrics make that song a standout in the popular and critically acclaimed musical "West Side Story."

Hatred

The New York adaptation of the Romeo and Juliet conflict represented by the hatred of American Whites and Hispanics for each other has various memorable songs, to be sure. "Maria" and "Somewhere" have become romantic classics sung by popular singers who were drawn to the lyricism of both music and lyrics.

However, when Anita cries her heart out in "A Boy Like That," it is definitely a high point, a dramatic melding of emotion and music. No wonder, Rita Moreno, who played Anita, brought home the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her moving interpretation of that grand modern aria in Robert Wise's film adaptation.

The other memorable number finds Rita and George Chakiris, who also brought home an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actor) joining a group of Puerto Ricans to debate the virtues of New York City in contrast to the squalor of Puerto Rico. The fabulous number "I Want To Be In America" defines their personal dilemma as Jerome Robbins' choreography helps sets the stage for consequent events.

GENE Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain."

Clear message

The conflicting groups turn the song and dance number into a spirited and emotional argument that stuns us with its clear message. We appreciate the beauty of movement, the aptness of the lyrics, the youthful energy and restlessness of the disgruntled Hispanics, and we understand their dilemma. We perceive the quickened pace of the conflict that forebodes only tragedy. This memorable song and dance num-

SONGS/ D3

Memorable night of music made in Madz heaven

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

LAST month, we headed to the CCP Main Theater to watch the concert of the acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers, "Mad About Madz."

Grand prize

We have been following the Madrigals' concerts since 1997 after they won the Grand Prize in the European Grand Prix choral competition in Tours, France, but we missed the "Madz Goes Pop" concert in 1999 where the acclaimed choral group staged a different performance. So this time, we did not want to miss the concert since we heard it was going to be extraordinary. The special guest was flutist Ray Sison.

As we entered the theater, we instantly noticed changes as far as the stage design was concerned. White monobloc chairs forming an arch served as the stage backdrop, and the ubiquitous chairs arranged in a semicircle were not identical but in various shapes and colors.

The Madz, as the group is fondly called, opened the program with the song "As Long As I Have Music," followed by the hilarious Jon Santos impersonating President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and later on in the program, former presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada. Jon's impersonations were a surprise treat and brought the house down.

Props

Some props added mood and drama to the songs, such as the presence of a *duyan* when the Madrigals sang "Caturong na Nonoy" and Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" in a powerful and moving manner, and the silhouette of a crucifix as they intoned "The Prayer," popularized by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion.

Choirmaster Mark Anthony Carpio shared that the Madz choose songs not only for their good melodies but also because of the positive message they convey. Thus, "Go the Distance" captured the triumphant years of the Madrigal Singers as photographs and video clips of the group's past and present performances here and abroad flashed on the screens.

"All We Leave Behind," "L'important C'est La Rose," and another Celine Dion hit, "My Heart Will Go On" from the movie "Titanic" completed the first part of the program.

The Madz went pop in the second part of the show, wearing casual jeans and shirts. They hit it off with "Only You," followed by the well-applauded Eraserheads hit "Overdrive," which was given greater zest by the play of lights throughout the whole song.

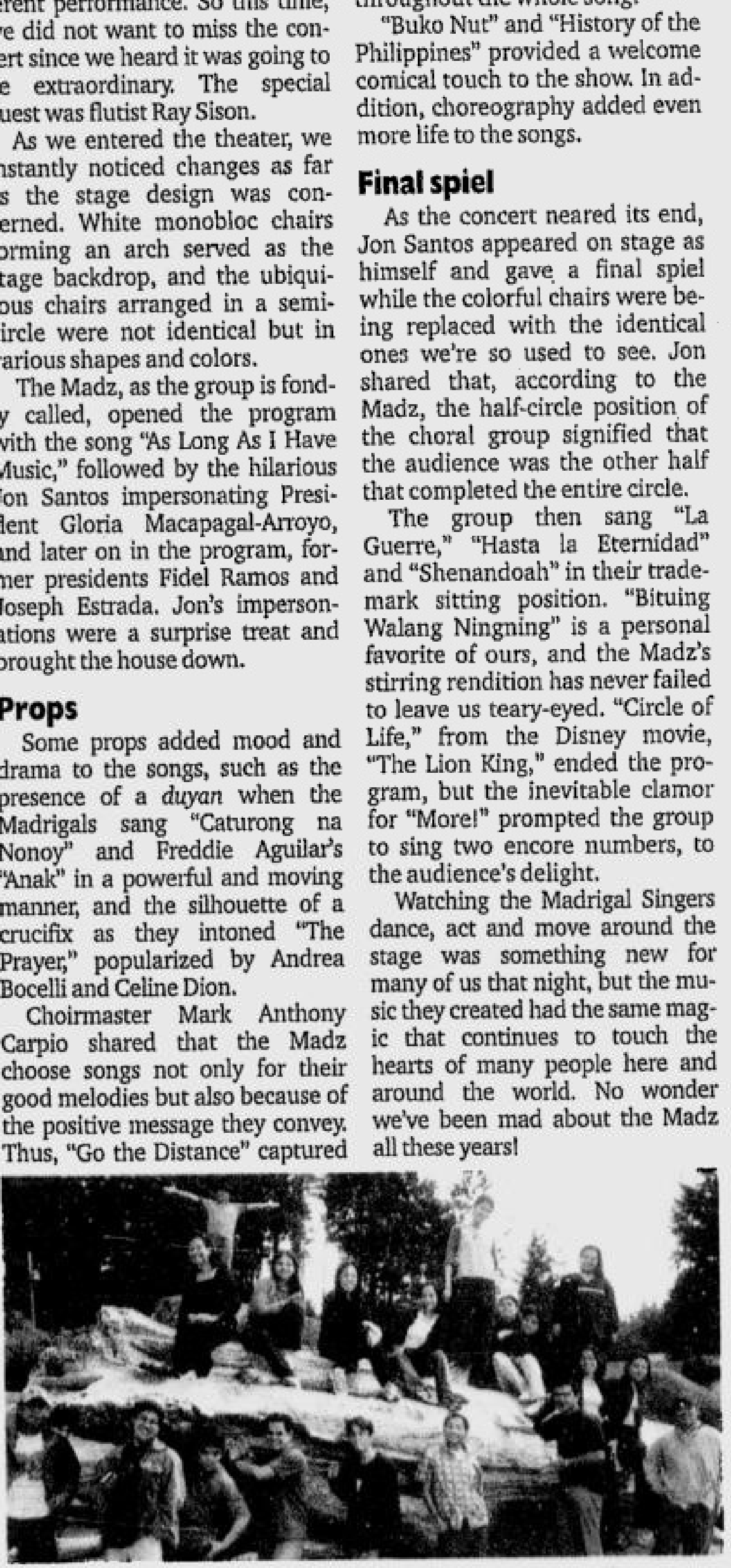
"Buko Nut" and "History of the Philippines" provided a welcome comical touch to the show. In addition, choreography added even more life to the songs.

Final spiel

As the concert neared its end, Jon Santos appeared on stage as himself and gave a final spiel while the colorful chairs were being replaced with the identical ones we're so used to see. Jon shared that, according to the Madz, the half-circle position of the choral group signified that the audience was the other half that completed the entire circle.

The group then sang "La Guerre," "Hasta la Eternidad" and "Shenandoah" in their trademark sitting position. "Bituing Walang Ningning" is a personal favorite of ours, and the Madz's stirring rendition has never failed to leave us teary-eyed. "Circle of Life," from the Disney movie, "The Lion King," ended the program, but the inevitable clamor for "More!" prompted the group to sing two encore numbers, to the audience's delight.

Watching the Madrigal Singers dance, act and move around the stage was something new for many of us that night, but the music they created had the same magic that continues to touch the hearts of many people here and around the world. No wonder we've been mad about the Madz all these years!



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Directed by: Guito V. Belza

Drew Barrymore is a movie veteran at 27

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

From Isabela Rumigo of Taguig, "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw 'E.T., The Extra Terrestrial' for the first time recently. I loved the movie, but I loved Drew Barrymore even more. She was a real charmer! I can't imagine how that precocious girl has turned into the wise-for-her-age woman that she is now. You have to write about her! Thanks in advance."

We agree. But more than seeing Drew blossom into a charming performer, we are glad that she has weathered all the trials that came her way early in her life.

TV commercial

"E.T." was really not her first movie. She first appeared as William Hurt's daughter in Ken Russell's cult hit, "Altered States" (1980). She was only five years old then. But even before she started making movies, she had already appeared in her first TV commercial even before her first birthday!

After the 1982 success of Spielberg's "E.T.," where she played Gertie at age seven, she spent the next years having to deal with drug overdose and alcoholism. She went through so much that, at the tender age of 14, she had already published and co-written an autobiographical book titled "Little Girl Lost."

After rehab, she returned to the screen, averaging more than four projects a year since 1992. She never did finish high school, though.

High-profile movies

To name some of her high-profile movies: "Firestarter" (where she spontaneously combusts); "Poison Ivy" (she schemes); "The Amy Fisher Story" (she seduces); "Wayne's World" (she plays); "Mad Love" (she romances); "Batman Forever" (she plays); "Everyone Says I Love You" (she sings); the trendsetting "Scream" (she, well, screams); "The Wedding Singer" (she pretends to like Adam Sandler); "Ever After" (she gives Cinderella a new spin); "Never Been Kissed" (she wins the guy); "Charlie's Angels" (she kicks ass); "Riding in Cars with Boys" (she gives birth to Adam Garcia), and many more.

Even her upcoming productions are a testament to her prolific streak, energy and dedication to her craft: "Who is Alan Smithee?;" George Clooney's directorial debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind;" "So Love Returns;" "Duplex;" the franchise, "Charlie's Angels 2" and the highly anticipated "Barbarella." One can't help but wonder how she does all this. Impressive, indeed.

No wonder she couldn't really make a go of her marriages. She was married to Jeremy Thomas for a mere five weeks, and to Tom Green ("Freddie Got Fingered") for only five months! She has dated Luke Wilson, Eric Erlandson, Corey Feldman, Stephen Dorff, Jamie Walters and Rodney Harvey.

BARRYMORE. Started acting in films when she was only five years old.

Youngest host

She was the youngest person to host "Saturday Night Live," at the age of seven. She was offered the part of Nomi Malone (Elizabeth Berkley played the role) in the Paul Verhoeven's strip-film debacle, "Showgirls."

She was offered the lead (played by Neve Campbell) in "Scream," but she wisely chose the character of Casey Baker, the first fatality in the film's now-classic opening. She got $500,000 for a few minutes of on-screen violence. She earned $3 million for "Ever After," $9 million for "Charlie's Angels," and will get $14 million, plus 12 percent of gross, in "Charlie's Angels 2." Whew!

The 5'4", 27-year-old movie veteran is a descendant of Hollywood bluebloods Lionel, John and Ethel Barrymore. And her godfather is Steven Spielberg. When Drew appeared on the pages of Playboy magazine, Spielberg gave her a quilt for her birthday with a note that said, "Cover yourself up."

Enclosed was a copy of the magazine's January 1995 issue for which she posed nude, with the pictures altered by Spielberg's art department so that she appeared fully-clothed. What a protective *ninong*, huh?

***From Ma. Alicia Hubugin of Bulacan,* "I have long wanted to know where I can write my favorite jazz artist, Sade, and my favorite pop star, Britney Spears. I hope you can help."**

There really is no guarantee that these celebrities will write back even if your letters reach them. But, hey, it is not an impossibility.

We once decided to write the legendary actor James Stewart ("It's A Wonderful Life") just for the heck of it, and he actually wrote back, and included an autographed photo. We still have the picture nicely tucked in a nook somewhere.

For Sade: 10 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 2LP, United Kingdom.

For Britney Spears: 137-139 W. 25th Street, New York, New York 10001, USA.

Songs that made the movie screen go zing!

From page D2

ber is so dramatic and heartrending that it is etched in our minds.

"Funny Girl" first introduced us to the fabulous and original talent that is Barbra Streisand. However, before the film was shown, the world already knew of her because of "People." Therefore, the song is a much-awaited part of the film. Fanny Brice's checkered life and many dreams become one in this lyrical number that weds Bob Merrill's beautiful words with the quiet music of Jule Styne.

However, I think the song that really captures the Brice/Streisand (how can we separate one from the other?) spirit, elan and love of life, as well as her claim to personal happiness, is the innovative and difficult production number "Don't Rain On My Parade."

Luxury liner

It follows her from her Manhattan apartment to the luxury liner where her lover Nicky Arnstein awaits her. The sequence shows Manhattan landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, the Bowery and other sites that add dimension and meaning to the scene.

Director William Wyler spares no expense and effort. He allows his imagination to fly and daringly take wing. No wonder it is such a memorable musical number.

Liza Minnellii will always be remembered for "Cabaret" since she garnered an Oscar for her role in the film. Her rendition of the theme song made her the other screen musical icon, next only to Barbra.

The life-changing song that defines her transformation is "Maybe This Time," a song that throbs with urgency, need and hope despite all. Interestingly, the song is not in the original musical but was composed especially for Minnelli. The film version was directed and choreographed with great distinction by Bob Fosse.

One cannot mention Liza and not remember Judy Garland, her infinitely talented and problematic mother who will be forever remembered for "Somewhere Over The Rainbow." There are other delightful ditties in "The Wizard of Oz," but if one tune defines the movie, it is Garland's classic song of hope and joy.

Opening shot

Who can forget the opening shot of "The Sound of Music?" If only for that scene, the helicopter deserves a medal of appreciation from the film industry. It shows Maria running up the green hills of Salzburg in a long shot that encompasses the beauty of the Austrian locale. It reveals the world Maria hopes to discover as well as the God-given grandeur of nature. It is a beautiful visual poem made all the more captivating by inspiring music that dips and soars like the valleys and peaks of the grand terrain.

Susan Hayward's interpretation of "With A Song In My Heart" in that bio-flick is a classic for its style and rendition. Her lip-synching of Jane Froman's singing is impeccable. Since the Academy Award winner could sing and in fact also had a deep voice, she was most credible as the tragedy-stricken singer. Hayward's singing stance and movements epitomized the period's style and captured the singer's energy and verve.

Favorite

But my favorite movie song-and-dance number is Gene Kelly's guileless interpretation of "Singin' in the Rain." The incomparable dancer-choreographer-director didn't have a great voice, but he developed a style all his own. He communicated sincerity and sheer joy as he blended childlike energy with simple steps in the delightful choreography of that number.

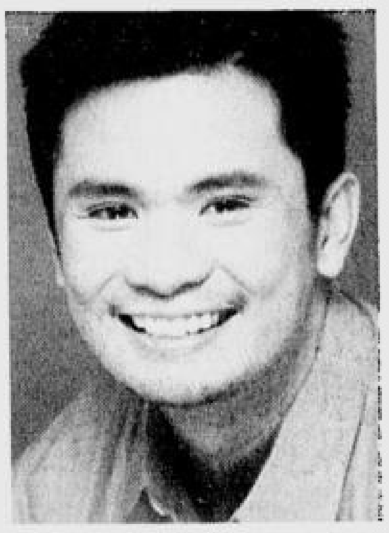
Whenever I hear the song, I immediately see Kelly in a black raincoat, an umbrella and a hat—dancing, prancing, splashing and singing in the rain. In fact, when I am caught in a downpour, I am tempted to do the same. How much more memorable can a song get?!

Best Filipino male pop singers picked

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S no denying the fact that we Filipinos are a very musical people. Philippine show business is peopled by singers, though not all of them can actually sing. Happily, those who can tend to be very good, indeed.

Who are the best male pop singers performing today? Some considered views:



ALCASID. Naturally gifted.

Soothing and expressive

"I think Ogie Alcasid would be the best, because his voice is soothing and expressive at the same time. He is naturally gifted singer, not like others who only sound good when they have technical support. He also chooses the songs he records wisely, to suit his voice and singing style. And he relates well to his audience, whether he's singing on TV or at a live concert."—*Jenny Soriano, Quezon City.*

Effortless

"In terms of vocal technique, Martin Nievera is the best local male pop singer. *Maganda talaga siya pakinggan kasi nahasa na ang boses niya. Parang* effortless *na ang tunog. Marami siyang* effects *na nagagawa* through his voice. *Tsaka marunong pa siya kung papaano mag-*perform *nang maayos, kaya di siya jologs o* corny."—*Aprilyn Lumampao, Angeles, Pampanga.*

Dancer

"I think it would be Gary Valenciano, I used to be a fan of Michael Jackson during the '80s and Gary is like our Michael. It's funny because Michael is passé already, but Gary's still going strong. He's not only a singer, but he's a dancer, too. It's very impressive that he can do both.

"When you say Gary V, people expect a high-class performance, because he always delivers his best. Pop singing *kasi* requires not only a good voice, *dapat lahat* attractive, *pati pananamit,* etc. With Gary you can always expect to get the best."—*Jesus Laucheco, Makati City.*

Duets

"Janno Gibbs is it. Actually, they're all good, but I think he tops them all, especially after I watched him perform live. He didn't only do solos, but also duets with female pop stars like Regine, who has a very good voice, and he held his own.

"He is a total performer, especially during live concerts. He doesn't just sing, he gives his all to entertain his audience."—*Darwin Bito-onon, Aklan.*

No gimmicks

"Based on appeal *sa pagkanta, sa tingin ko si* Ogie *ang pinakamagaling. Wala siyang mga* gimmick *sa pagkanta, natural lang lahat. Yung iba kasi, di ko lang sasabihin kung sino, nagre-*rely *na lang minsan sa kung anu-anong mga pa-ef*fect *para ma-*impress *ang* audience *nila.*

"Si Ogie, *bigyan mo lang ng* mike, OK *na. Kahit nga wala, e. Parang mahal niya kasi ang pagkanta.*"—*Karyn Anne Baes, Cavite.*

Professional

"Gary Velenciano! *Sino pa kaya? Siguro naman hindi siya sisikat* internationally *kung hindi talaga siya magaling. Napaka-*professional *ng dating niya. Alam niya lagi kung ano ang* next *na gagawin. Lahat ng mga napanood kong* shows *niya, mukhang pingahandaan ng husto.*

"*Matagal na rin siyang kumakanta, di ba? Tsaka walang tigil, talagang yun ang buhay niya. Kaya ang ganda ng boses at pagkanta niya,* practice *kasi siya nang* practice. *Pag-i-*compare *mo sa ibang* singers, *nagmumukha silang* amateur."—*Queenie Veracruz, Calamba, Laguna.*

Aga Muhlach . . .

From page D5

sinto. Ginawa ko na 'yun (in a movie with Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon titled 'Nag-iisang Bituin')."

After all the lessons he's learned from being in the movies for so long, has Aga become a better actor or a better person?

"I don't know if I've become a better actor, but I know that I've become a better person," Aga firmly states.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 2 - NOV 8

CH	2	4	5	7	9	[illegible]	23	29	131
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:30 Master Showman	6.00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 7 Days 8:00 Largo 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Joan of Arc Part 2*	7.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:30 E! News Weekend 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Andy Kaufmann* 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 E! News Weekend
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	8:00 The Working President 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6.00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Nikita* 11:00 Road Trip	8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 10:30 Points of View 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! True Hollywood Special 8:00 Rank *25 Sexiest Men In Entertainment* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Harrison Ford* 10:00 Celebrity (Fox)*Alice Faye: The Star Next Door*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6.00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8.00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11.00 Probe Team	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Simpsons 8:00 Jag 9.00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6.00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9.00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10.00 Wild On *The Vine*
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	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11.00 Mission X	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6.00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6 00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11.00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Sabrina 8:00 Roswell 9.00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6.00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *Mexican Riviera*
	6 00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7.00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11 00 Isyu 101	6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6.00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10.00 The Big News 10.30 By Request	6 00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9.00 Once and Again 10 00 Newswatch Now 10 30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Amazing Grace 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6.30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *South Beach*
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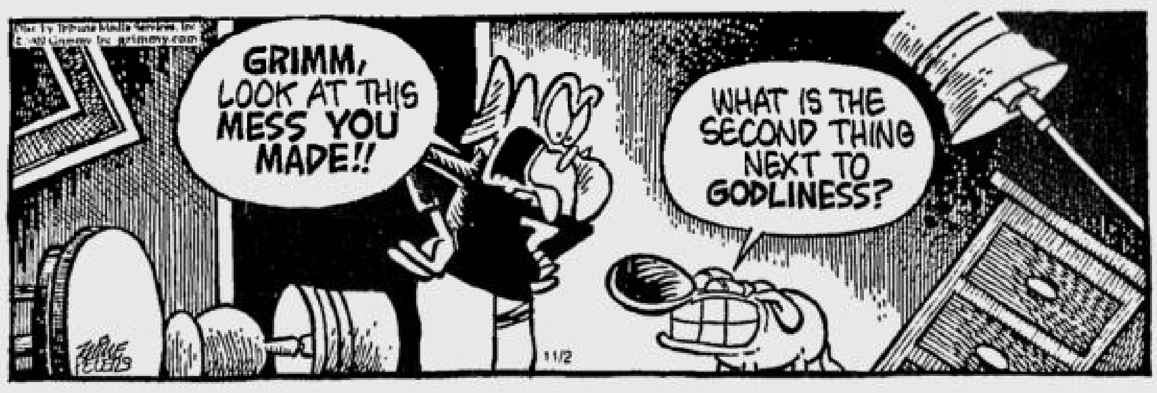
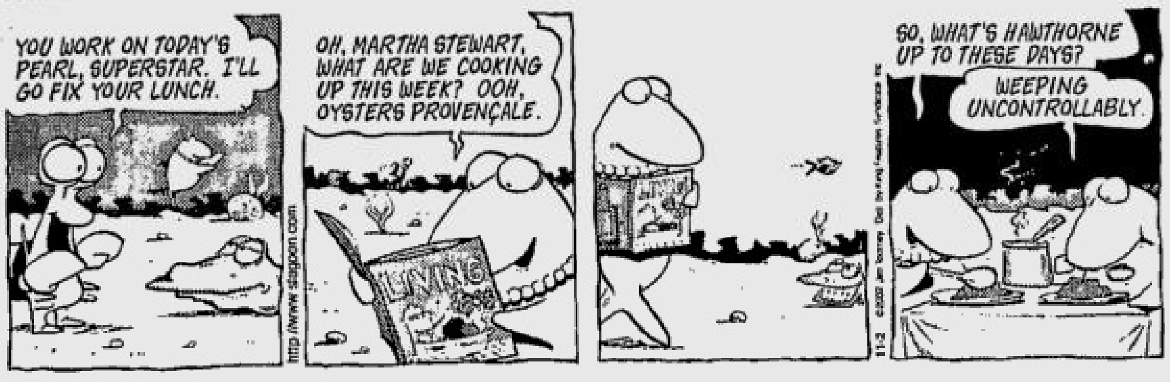
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, LOOK AT THIS MESS YOU MADE!!
WHAT IS THE SECOND THING NEXT TO GODLINESS?
11/2

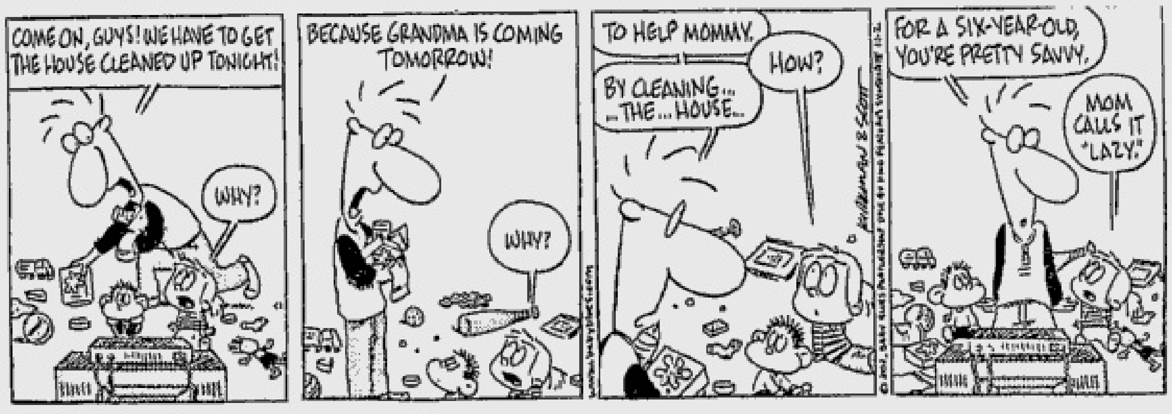
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU WORK ON TODAY'S PEARL, SUPERSTAR. I'LL GO FIX YOUR LUNCH.
OH, MARTHA STEWART, WHAT ARE WE COOKING UP THIS WEEK? OOH, OYSTERS PROVENÇALE.
LIVING
SO, WHAT'S HAWTHORNE UP TO THESE DAYS?
WEEPING UNCONTROLLABLY.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-2

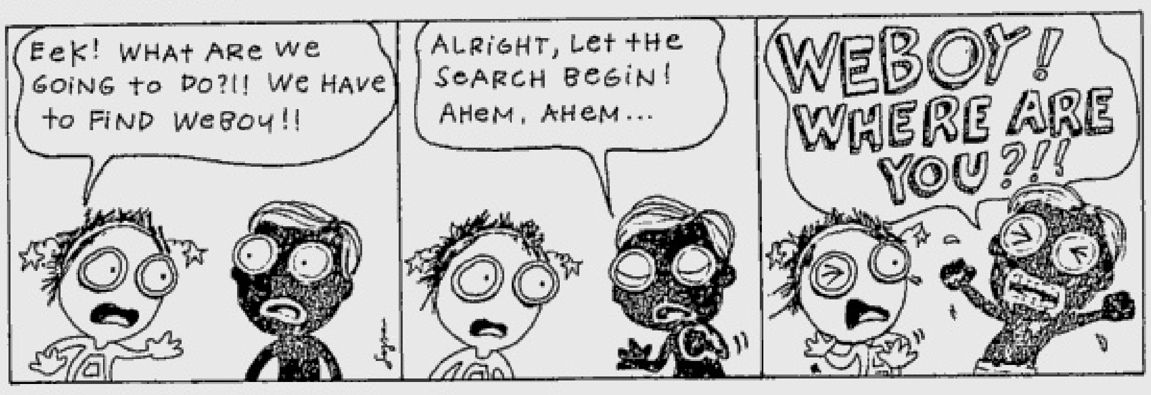
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


COME ON, GUYS! WE HAVE TO GET THE HOUSE CLEANED UP TONIGHT!
WHY?
BECAUSE GRANDMA IS COMING TOMORROW!
WHY?
TO HELP MOMMY.
HOW?
BY CLEANING... ...THE... HOUSE...
FOR A SIX-YEAR-OLD, YOU'RE PRETTY SAVVY.
MOM CALLS IT "LAZY."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BYLYRA GARCELLANO


Eek! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!! WE HAVE TO FIND WEBOY!!
ALRIGHT, LET THE SEARCH BEGIN! AHEM, AHEM...
WEBOY! WHERE ARE YOU?!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: k.d. lang, Burt Lancaster, Keith Emerson, Pat Buchanan

Happy Birthday: Your strong will to do things your own way will lead you down some unusual pathways, adding adventure to your life. Your drive coupled with your refusal to accept defeat will take you into some challenging situations, but the end result will be favorable as long as you play by the rules. Your numbers are 6, 18, 23, 29, 31, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A co-worker may be twisting your words and revealing your secrets. Be careful, but don't be too quick to retaliate. The final outcome will be favorable and your diplomacy will be appreciated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Moneymaking opportunities are present. Look at all those involved in the project before you make commitments. It is important that you are thorough,and then you will meet with success.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make changes, however, be sure that it won't upset others. You may find that children will be deceptive if they disagree with your intentions. Keep your eyes open and be ready for anything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotions are likely to be up and down. Your mate may be having trouble communicating. Don't jump to conclusions. Listen to offers carefully before making a decision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may overreact to your actions. Concentrate on work and don't get involved in gossip. Problems with get-rich-quick schemes will be upsetting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Recycle old ideas and incorporate them into moneymaking ventures. They could become quite lucrative. You will find that your emotions will fluctuate if you don't keep busy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Difficulties with authority figures could leave you jobless. This is the time for diplomacy and the time to think before you speak. Use your creative imagination to find ways of making extra cash.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Children may need a little time today. Try not to brush off your responsibilities to your family. Include your loved ones in your group activities. They just want to spend time with you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't ruffle feathers at work. Remain focused on the task at hand. The emotional problems of co-workers will create difficulties. Eventually everything will be revealed.

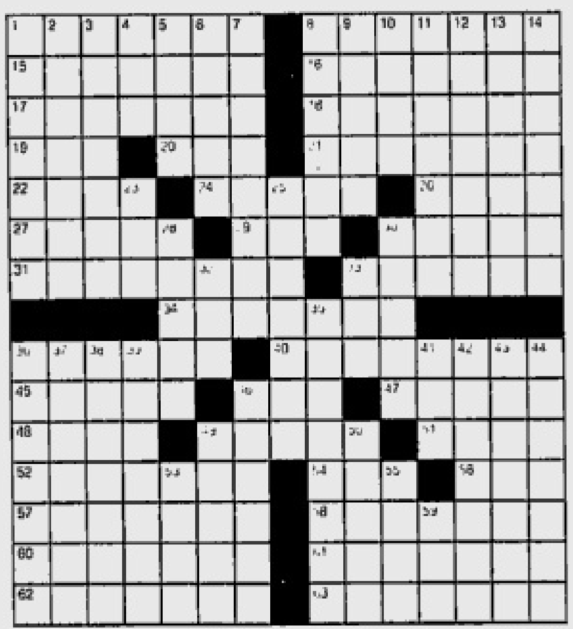
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will make more progress out in the field where you can display hands-on expertise. What you know will impress others, but you can still learn more from someone who has spent a long time in your industry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into investment opportunities. Make sure that you have all your personal papers in order. Partners may take drastic measures in order to get your attention. It's time to look closely at the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can be in the driver's seat at group meetings. Your solutions will be well received and bring you popularity. Don't be afraid to put your ideas out there because the group is looking for a leader.

Birthday Baby: You will be a very strong contender throughout your life. You will be charming in a forceful and persistent manner, and this is exactly why you will get ahead.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

11/2/02

ACROSS
1 Hispanic groceries
8 Bitter irony
15 Perform surgery
16 Foot control
17 Blanket for the bleachers
18 Kampala resident
19 Poorly
20 Young Scot
21 Serve as an omen of
22 Perspective
24 Related product
26 Brink
27 Poker pot sweeteners
29 Terminate
30 Discourage
31 Sign up again
33 Ecclesiastical councils
34 Craftsman
36 Small landmasses
40 Appeal of kiddies and kittens
45 H.S. students
46 Church bench
47 Musical piece
48 McDowell film, "__ High"
49 Round dances
51 Voting group
52 Kin of water lilies
54 Neither's companion
56 Rhea's cousin
57 Shackled
58 Part of NRC
60 Parade beat
61 City east of L.A.
62 Winter transportation
63 Monterrey mates

DOWN
1 Venezuelan currency
2 Like a translucent gemstone
3 Use up
4 Accomplish incorrectly
5 London slammer
6 Standing by the plate
7 Superlatively squalid
8 Harebrained
9 Inert gas
10 Stand on hind legs
11 Hiker's water container
12 Combined with
13 Used casual language
14 Repairers
23 Old English W
25 Something acting as a lure
28 Louvers
30 Units of force
32 U.S. tax department
33 Convened
35 Georgia/Florida river
36 Type of type
37 Trademark barbiturate
38 Ocean motion with the wind
39 Made certain
41 Crux
42 Brennan and Heckart
43 Leaf openings
44 Frees from danger
46 Deputized groups
49 Later than now
50 All __ Day
53 Ballad
55 Mountie org.
59 Old card game

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	N	G	O	R	A	■	H	O	S	S	■	I	S	M
L	E	O	N	I	D	■	A	R	C	O	■	C	P	A
S	L	O	U	G	H	E	R	B	U	F	F	E	R	S
O	L	D	S	■	E	N	D	■	M	A	L	A	Y	S
■	■	■	■	U	R	G	E	S	■	■	A	G	E	E
S	L	E	E	P	E	R	S	W	E	E	P	E	R	S
H	O	V	E	L	■	■	T	U	R	F	■	■	■	■
E	Y	E	L	I	D	S	■	M	A	F	I	O	S	I
■	■	■	■	N	O	E	S	■	■	E	R	W	I	N
S	L	A	C	K	E	R	T	R	A	C	K	E	R	S
H	O	E	R	■	■	■	F	E	A	S	T	■	■	■
A	C	R	O	S	S	■	T	I	P	■	A	L	F	A
S	K	I	P	P	E	R	S	N	I	P	P	E	R	S
T	E	E	■	O	T	T	O	■	R	E	S	N	A	P
A	D	S	■	T	H	E	N	■	E	G	E	S	T	S

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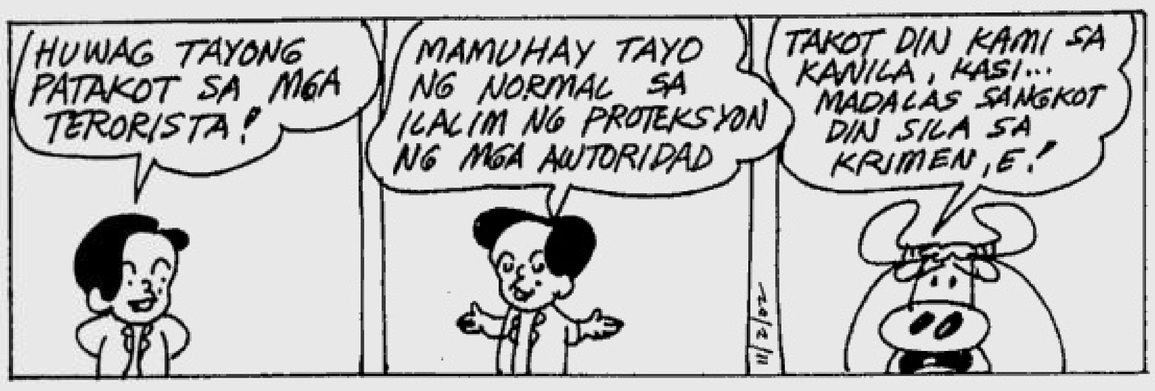
11/2/02

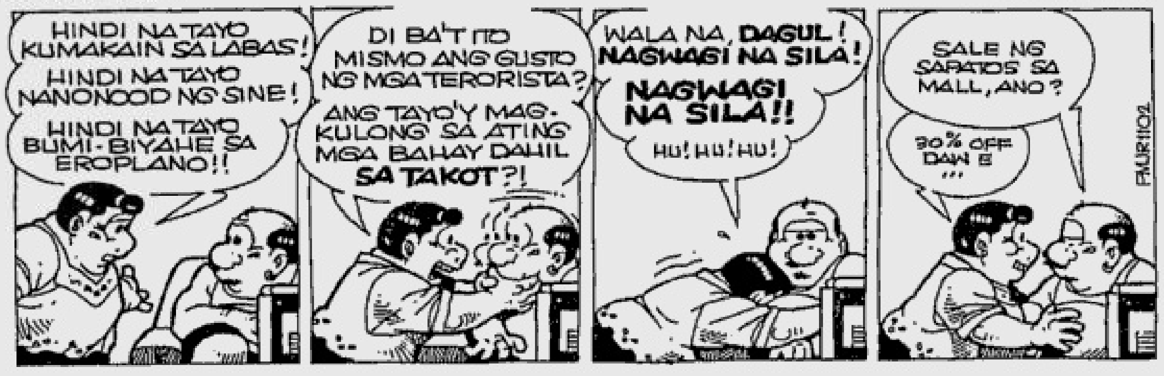
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HUWAG TAYONG PATAKOT SA MGA TERORISTA!
MAMUHAY TAYO NG NORMAL SA ILALIM NG PROTEKSYON NG MGA AWTORIDAD
TAKOT DIN KAMI SA KANILA, KASI... MADALAS SANGKOT DIN SILA SA KRIMEN, E!
11/2/02

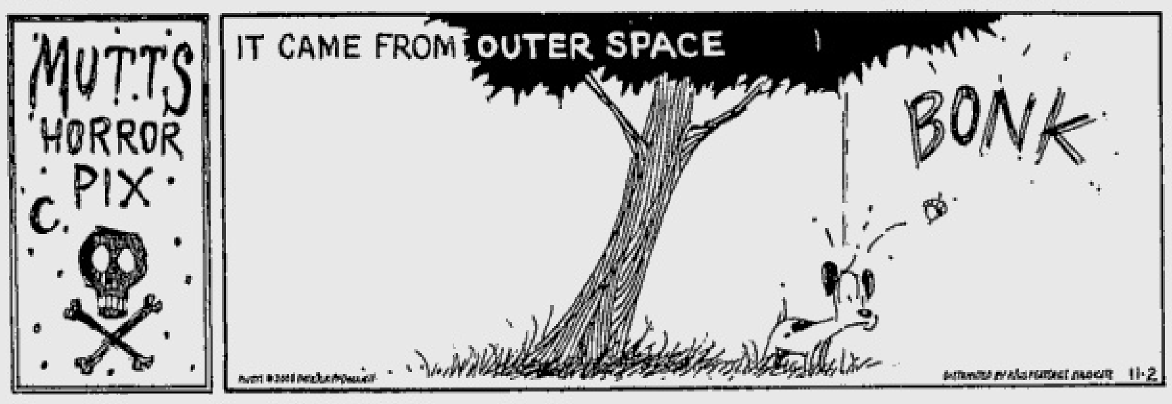
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NA TAYO KUMAKAIN SA LABAS!
HINDI NA TAYO NANONOOD NG SINE!
HINDI NA TAYO BUMI-BIYAHE SA EROPLANO!!
DI BA'T ITO MISMO ANG GUSTO NG MGA TERORISTA?
ANG TAYO'Y MAG-KULONG SA ATING MGA BAHAY DAHIL SA TAKOT?!
WALA NA, DAGUL! NAGWAGI NA SILA!
NAGWAGI NA SILA!!
HU! HU! HU!
SALE NG SAPATOS SA MALL, ANO?
30% OFF DAW E ...
PMJR1102

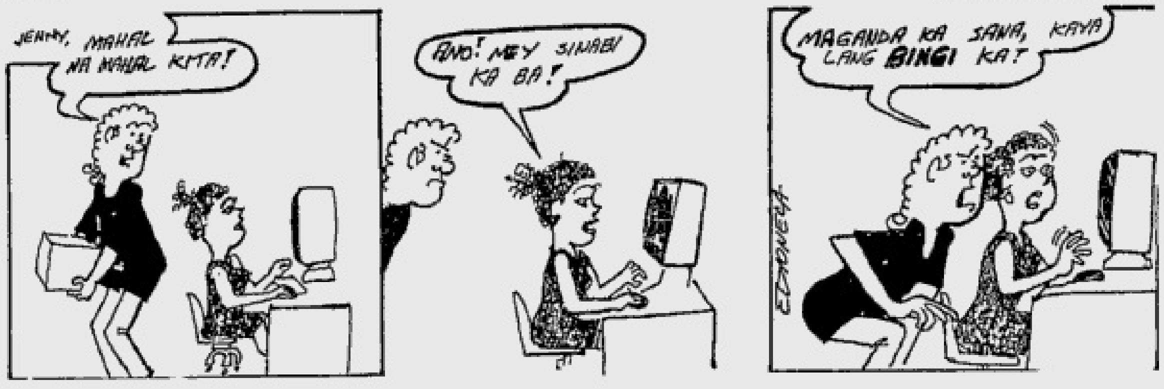
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS HORROR PIX
IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE
BONK
11-2

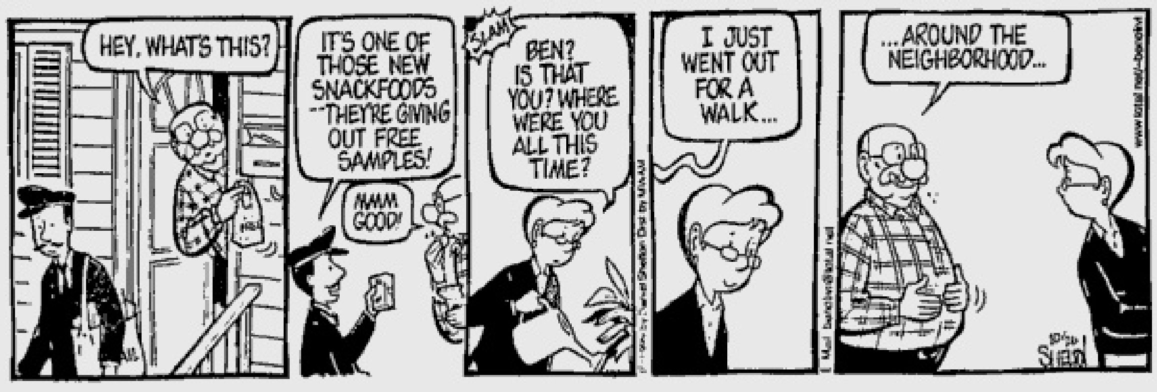
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


JENNY, MAHAL NA MAHAL KITA!
ANO! MEY SINABI KA BA?
MAGANDA KA SANA, KAYA LANG BINGI KA?
EDIONELA

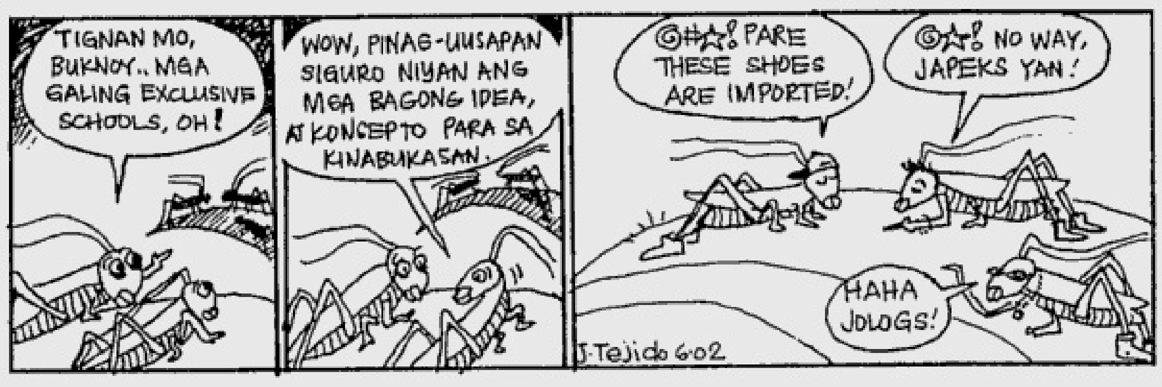
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S ONE OF THOSE NEW SNACKFOODS --THEY'RE GIVING OUT FREE SAMPLES!
MMM GOOD!
SLAM!
BEN? IS THAT YOU? WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?
I JUST WENT OUT FOR A WALK...
...AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
SHELTON

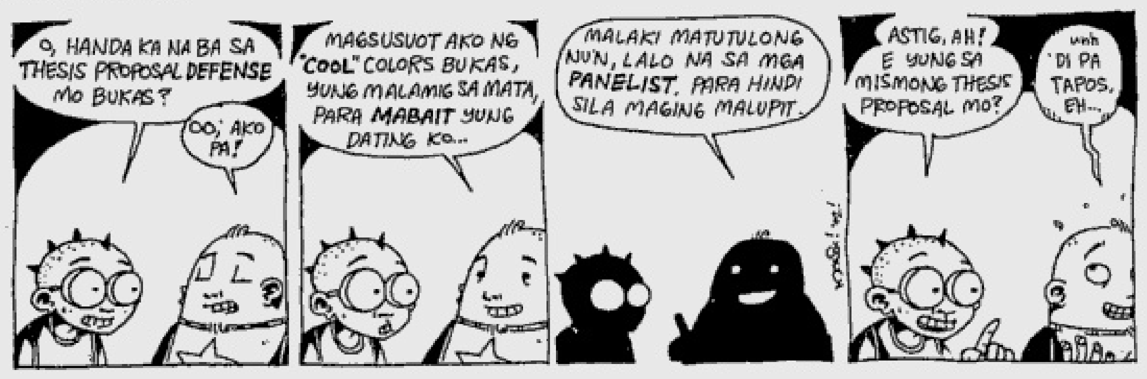
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TIGNAN MO, BUKNOY.. MGA GALING EXCLUSIVE SCHOOLS, OH!
WOW, PINAG-UUSAPAN SIGURO NIYAN ANG MGA BAGONG IDEA, AT KONCEPTO PARA SA KINABUKASAN.
@#☆! PARE THESE SHOES ARE IMPORTED!
@☆! NO WAY, JAPEKS YAN!
HAHA JOLOGS!
J.Tejido 6.02

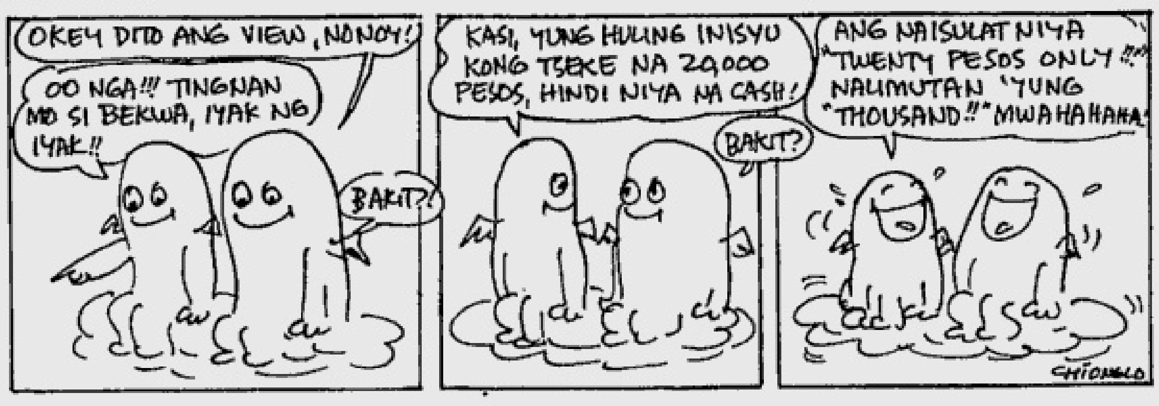
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, HANDA KA NA BA SA THESIS PROPOSAL DEFENSE MO BUKAS?
OO, AKO PA!
MAGSUSUOT AKO NG "COOL" COLORS BUKAS, YUNG MALAMIG SA MATA, PARA MABAIT YUNG DATING KO...
MALAKI MATUTULONG NUN, LALO NA SA MGA PANELIST, PARA HINDI SILA MAGING MALUPIT.
ASTIG, AH! E YUNG SA MISMONG THESIS PROPOSAL MO?
unh 'DI PA TAPOS, EH...

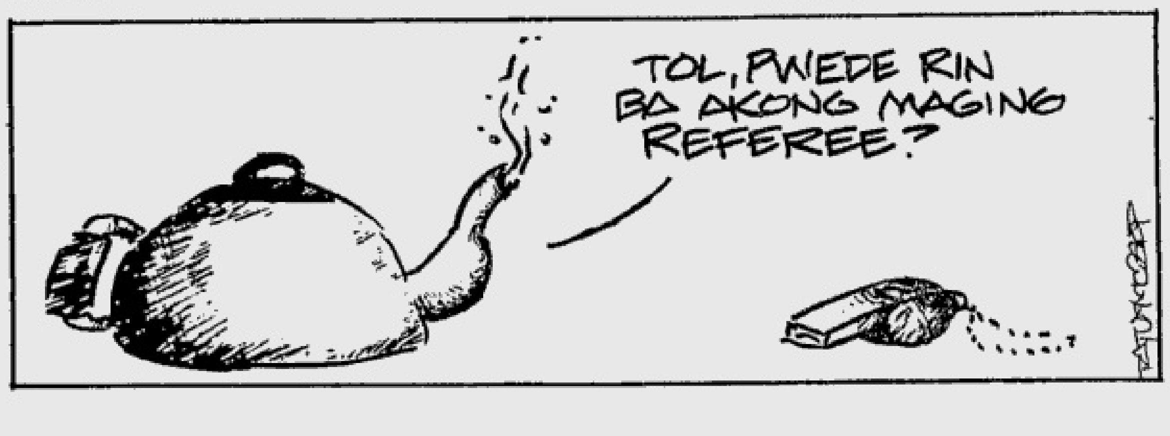
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

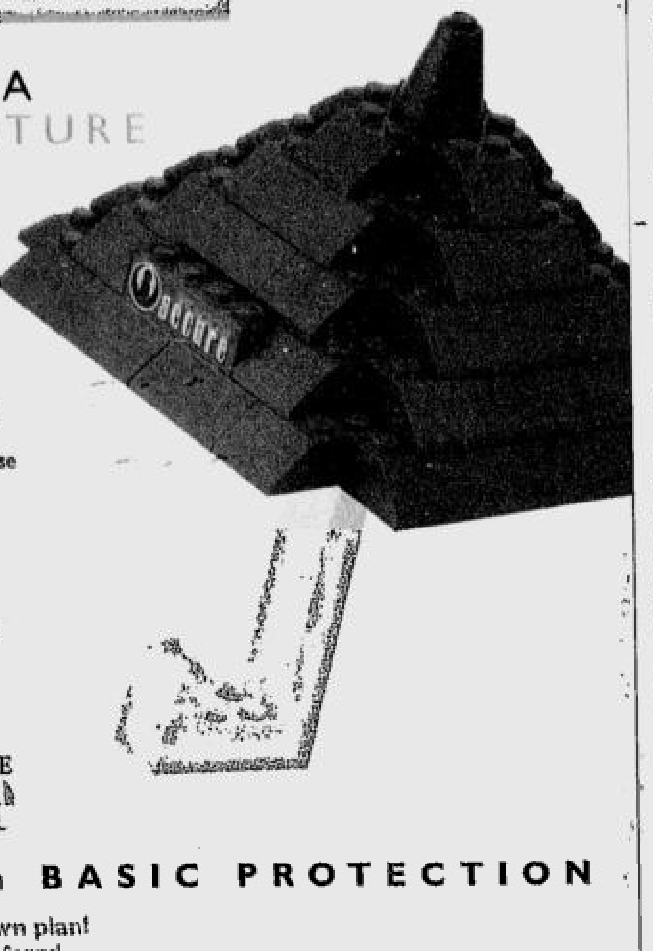

OKEY DITO ANG VIEW, NONOY!
OO NGA!!! TINGNAN MO SI BEKWA, IYAK NG IYAK!!
BAKIT?!
KASI, YUNG HULING INISYU KONG TSEKE NA 20,000 PESOS, HINDI NIYA NA CASH!
BAKIT?
ANG NAISULAT NIYA "TWENTY PESOS ONLY!!" NALIMUTAN 'YUNG "THOUSAND!!" MWAHAHAHA!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, PWEDE RIN BA AKONG MAGING REFEREE?

BUILD A BETTER FUTURE



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Marilou Diaz-Abaya starts shooting 'Moral Now'

By Nestor U. Torre

TWENTY years after directing "Moral," one of her early landmark films, Marilou Diaz-Abaya has started to shoot its sequel, "Moral Now." Last Tuesday, we dropped by her new movie's set at the University of the Philippines campus to see how the production, one of Star Cinema's most important projects this year, was coming along.

ABAYA. In her new film, four old friends try to find the genuine peace that has eluded them all these years.

Two decades later

We expected to see the four original stars of "Moral"—Gina Alajar, Lorna Tolentino, Sandy Andolong and Anna Marin—reprising their roles two decades later, but learned that this wasn't going to be the case. Their characters are now being played by Dina Bonnevie, Eula Valdez, Cherry Pie Picache and Jean Garcia.

The logical question, of course, is: Why? Nobody was about to answer our rather impolitic question head-on, but we suspect it had something to do with talent fees.

In any case, the lives of the four best friends have developed in so many different ways by the time the sequel begins telling its updated story that it may not be all that essential for them to be played by the original actresses.

The production was shooting a big scene that day, with a rally and parade for peace providing the setting for a key meeting between Dina's character and that of the son of one of her best friends (played by Jericho Rosales). Jodi Santamaria was also in the sequence.

Affair

The encounter is "key" because Dina will soon be launching into a "shameful" affair with Jericho, a "May-September" romance that provides the film with a number of its dramatic and thematic highlights.

The big scene took a long time being rehearsed and shot because there were so many elements to weave into one impressive whole. But the final take was well worth the time spent on the complicated sequence.

Screenwriter Ricky Lee was on the set last Tuesday, and he was pleased with how the shoot was progressing. He also had appreciative words to say about Marilou as a director.

Unlike some other megmen who don't credit their scriptwriters for their inputs, he said, Marilou always makes it a point to cite her writers for their contributions when her films are being praised.

Excited

As for Marilou, she was visibly excited by the chance she was being given to take her story about four female friends in unanticipated directions. This time around, most of them are parents of young adults themselves, and thus have many more complex issues to contend with.

As far as the filmmaker is concerned, however, the central theme of "Moral Now" is peace, and the many different ways to find it in today's increasingly strife-torn world. That's a potent theme that many viewers will be able to relate to, whether they're as young as Jericho's character is, or as mature as the "Moral" women have become.

Mother

Marilou is particularly pleased that Laurice Guillen has agreed to reprise her role as the mother of the character named Joey (Dina). Indeed, Laurice's character helps focus the other conflicts and issues in the film, so it takes an actress of Laurice's caliber to do full justice to the challenging part.

Backgrounder on the first "Moral" film, for younger viewers: "Filmed in 1982, Diaz-Abaya's film traces the lives of four female friends set against the social, political and economic milieu of 1979-1982. They are shown not as victims, but as shapers of their destiny.

Decision

"Joey runs away from problems through drugs and casual sex. Kathy wants to make her fortune through singing despite the fact that she doesn't have a good voice. Maritess is a good writer but sacrifices her talent to have more time to devote to her family. And Sylvia's husband has left her for another man. In the end, each woman comes to a decision that makes her whole as a person."

But now, 20 more years have elapsed, and there are some old and other new problems to confront before the four friends can find the genuine peace that has continued to elude them all these years.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Bihag' airs tomorrow on ABS-CBN

By Edmund L. Sicam

WE generally frown on the extensive use of reenactments in a documentary, because they defeat the purpose for which the production was conceived. A documentary is more effective if it uses actual footage of the events and not dramatizations which lessen the impact of a reality-based show.

NIERRAS. No tyrant, he.

There are exceptions, however, like ABS-CBN's "Bihag: Into the Mountain" which airs tomorrow at 9 p.m. "Bihag" is about the harrowing experiences of 53 teachers and students who were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan in March 2000. One of the captives was Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, who was beheaded by the bandits.

To achieve greater impact, the docu reenacts the abuse and torture that the victims experienced at the hands of the their captors, as well as allegations of collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and some members of the military. These are based on eyewitness accounts as detailed by Jose Torres, Jr. in his book "Into the Mountain," for which he won the National Book Award for Journalism. He acted as consultant for "Bihag."

The dramatizations are effective because the actors are convincing in their respective roles. The visuals also look like they were shot during the actual incidents. There is no attempt to sensationalize the scenes but the images are disturbing, nevertheless.

New boldie

Nina Lopez, introduced in Starlight Films' "Biglang Liko," plays the title role in Legacy Films' "Dalaginding," where she is used by her stepfather to blackmail a politician.

The Cebuana has just embarked on her career but already she has become a controversial figure. During the shooting of her launching movie, producer Celso de los Angeles found out that she was still a minor so he toned down the sexy scenes in the movie. In fact, according to Nina, the nude shots of her in the movie belong to a body double.

De Los Angeles also plans to file legal action against people who misrepresented the new talent's age.

The movie also stars Halina Perez, Elizabeth Oropesa, Eddie Gutierrez, Marcus Madrigal and Carlos Morales. Direction is by Mike Relon Makiling.

Douglas Nierras in one word

We asked some members of Powerdance to describe their artistic director, Douglas Nierras, in one word. Their answers: strict, perfectionist, mentor, teacher, rare, genius.

Not one said the "T" word—tyrant which is the image Douglas projects to the outside world. We kidded him when he finally arrived that he had trained his dancers well not only in dance but also in answering pesky writers. The choreographer kidded back that the group couldn't find a harsher word than tyrant.

Kidding aside, everyone in the group agreed that Douglas does not dictate to them, nor does he spoonfeed his dancers. Rather, he makes them think what to do with their bodies.

Powerdance will have its 15th anniversary presentation, "Can Everybody (Power) Dance?" on Nov. 9 at the CCP Main Theater. Call 633-6417.

Aga Muhlach has become a better person

By Jocelyn Valle

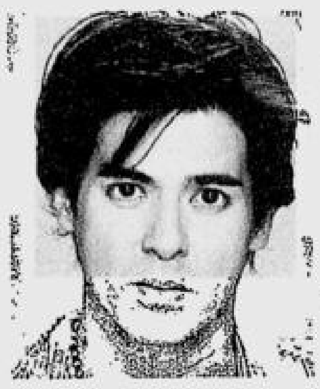
DESPITE all the acting awards and adulation that have been bestowed on him, Aga Muhlach doesn't consider himself a good actor. "*Marami pa akong kulang,*" he humbly admits. "Like *kulang sa tapang sa pag-*experiment. *Sana nga sa pagtanda ko…*"

Happy life

Fans of the 33-year-old actor who shot to fame in his first big role in the '80s seminal youth flick, "Bagets," may not readily accept his declarations. But, these days, Aga talks mostly about his happy life as husband, father, actor and person.

He's excited about his twin kids Atasha Aaron and Antonio Andres' first birthday on Nov. 5. He can't contain his joy in narrating how his baby girl tries hard to talk.

As for having the host of "Feel at Home with Charlene" for a wife, Aga has no complaints. He may play a New Yorker chef in his latest project, "Kailangan Kita," but Aga takes his hat off to Charlene. "I don't really know how to cook," he says, shaking his head. "It's Charlene who's a great cook. *Parang* therapy *na niya 'yan,* and I love everything that she cooks for me."



MUHLACH. Trusts his director completely.

Trials

With all the trials that he'd been through especially in his youthful years, Aga feels that he deserves having a blessed life now. And he's thankful to God, making sure that he constantly prays to Him.

"Kailangan Kita" took seven months to complete, and the delay initially bothered Aga. But when he saw the first cut of the movie's trailer, he felt great. "Excited *ako sa* movie!" he beams. "*At 'pag na-*excite *ako, maganda ang* result."

Does he get frustrated when his movies don't do well at the tills? "*Hindi ako nasasaktan,*" he replies. "When you're making the movie, you do your very best, *pero wala ka ng magagawa kung manonood sila o hindi.* Whether it works or it doesn't, it's beyond your control."

Selective

Aga shares that he's become very selective in choosing his projects. "*Kung alam kong 'di babagay sa akin, 'di ko ginagawa kahit maganda ang* role," he avers.

It's also a must that he trusts his director completely. "*Kahit anong galing ng artista, sa* director *pa rin nakasalalay ang pelikula,*" he points out.

How does he motivate his screen characters' actions? "*Hindi ako naniniwala sa* motivation, unless you're doing a character role *talaga,* like a *sintu-sinto. 'Yun talaga, pag-aaralan mo dahil hindi ka naman sintu-*

AGA/ D3

'Tesis' goes beyond shock value

By Leia Torre

AS part of the "Fiesta 2002: Spanish Festival for the Culture and the Arts," the Instituto Cervantes sponsored "Pelikula: A Week of Spanish Films" from Oct. 20 to Oct. 26. We viewed five of the six films featured and appreciated their high level of quality. One sterling example:

"Tesis" (Thesis), one of the Spanish films in "Pelikula," tells the story of a university student, Angela (played by Ana Torrant) who's doing a thesis on violence in the media.

"TESIS." Extremely suspenseful.

Violent images

The problems begin when Angela requests her thesis adviser, Mr. Figueroa, to make some particularly violent images available to her by using his access to the university's video archives. Little do they know that this will lead to the professor's death due to an asthma attack induced by his watching a shocking film.

Angela shows the tape to Chema (Fele Martines), a fellow film student with a predilection for hard-core violence and pornography. They discover that it is in fact a snuff movie on the actual murder of a university student who mysteriously disappeared two years ago.

Reluctant

Although the duo is reluctant to get further involved, circumstances force them to do so. It doesn't help that Chema and Angela disagree about one of the main suspects, Bosco (Eduardo Noriega), another film student. Although she's highly suspicious of him at the start, Bosco's good looks and flirtatious personality soon cause Angela to become infatuated with him.

The story gets much worse before it gets better: Angela and Chema find out that Angela's new thesis adviser was also involved in the crime, and he is about to shoot Angela when Chema stops him, and she ends up killing the professor.

Bosco's erstwhile girlfriend informs Angela that Bosco and Chema used to be chums, and that it was in fact Chema who told Bosco about snuff films in the first place. Angela, whose suspicions have been mounting, panics when she finds a tape labeled with her name inside a video camera in Chema's closet—the same model that was used in shooting the controversial murder.

Vacation house

Things finally come to a head when Chema follows Angela, who tracks Bosco down to his family's vacation house. A confrontation ensues, and the killer is revealed.

The movie is extremely suspenseful, with a lot of tense scenes that make Angela look paranoid. For example, she's lost her house keys, and she gets home one day to a silent house and sees a camera bag containing the suspect camera. Then she sees Bosco and runs to lock herself into the bathroom. But it turns out that her mother is at home, and had let Bosco in.

Creepy

The story is not in the least predictable—as soon as one has decided who the killer is, something comes up to muddle the facts once more. The musical scoring is also decidedly creepy.

Ana Torrant gives a very convincing performance. She looks so terrified in the most crucial scenes, especially when she utters the movie's trademark line: "My name is Angela, they're going to kill me."

Fele Martinez somehow makes the untidy, weird, geeky Chema lovable. And Eduardo Noriega is downright sinister in his portrayal of the guy with the angelic good looks. It's enough to make girls steer clear of guys who look halfway decent!

Alejandro Amenábar, who also directed the Nicole Kidman starrer "The Others," megged this winner of six Spanish Goya awards, including Best Director and Best Picture. "Tesis" was produced in 1996.

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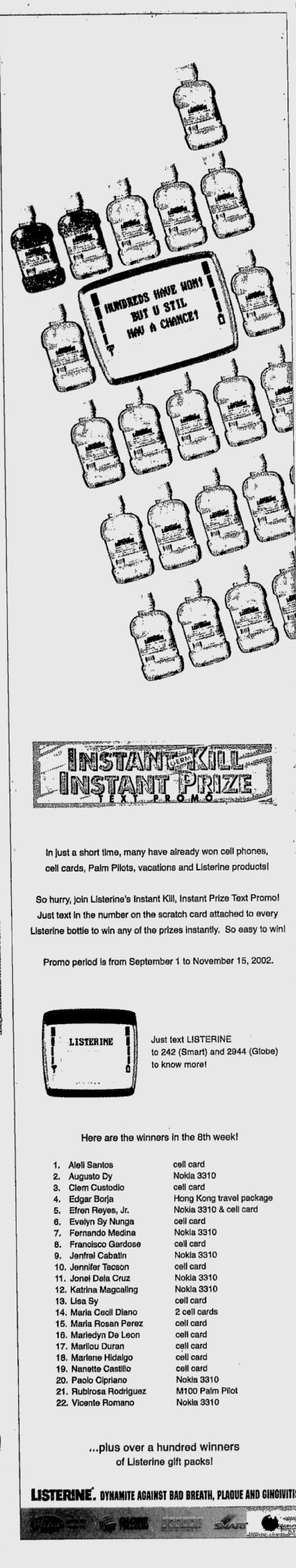
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PERALEJO. Doesn't want to repeat herself.

Rica plays 'probinsyana' in new film

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER a brief absence from the movies due to her hectic TV schedule, Rica Peralejo is back in yet another Yam Laranas film, "Hibla." When we spoke to her recently, she was scheduled to dub her final sequences and she was a bit apprehensive.

"*Kasi nakaka*-drain. *Unang-una,* you can never repeat your emotions. So, *kung ano ang boses mo doon, lalo na ako, ang dami kong iyak, yung iyak, nakakaubos ng boses yun! May mga sigaw pa ako. Hindi ko alam kung paano ko gagawin lahat yun sa isang araw. Sa* dubbing, *iiyak ka na naman.* You have to get into your character again."

Expert

Since Rica can be called an expert of sorts in the bold genre, we asked just how bold the movie is. "*Dito,* even the story is bold. It's not only a showing of skin. Aside from the kissing scene I have with Maui (Taylor), there's another one *na hindi naman kay* Maui *na nakaka-shock.*"

Rica notes another difference: "In my past movies, I made love *dahil mahal ko yung tao. Dito, hindi. Merong* love, *pero hindi dun sa taong mahal ko. May* twist."

Kissing scene

So what's the kissing scene with Maui all about? "Maui's character is teaching me how to kiss. *Kasi, tinanong niya ako, paano ka ba humalik? Pinagawa niya sa akin. Tapos sabi niya, mali daw yun. So ginawa niya sa akin yung totoong halik.*"

Was the director the same way he was in "Balahibong Pusa?" "*Si Direk* Yam, *hindi gumagawa ng pelikula na paulit-ulit. Sabi ko nga sa kanya, 'Alam mo, Direk, ni isang eksena, wala kang inulit na* shot *talaga.*"

Praises

Rica sings Yam's praises: "*Nangawit nga ang leeg ko sa tagal ng ilawan. Pero sabi ko, ang ganda ko! Ito pala yung kinababale ng leeg ko.* "

This movie offer came at the right time for Rica. When she got the script her reaction was, "*Naku,* reject *na naman ito. Pero nung nabasa ko, ang ganda!*"

In what sense was it good? "Very good script, very good director, not like anything I've done before. *Yun kasi ang* major factor *ko:* If I'm going to do another bold film, I don't want it to look like another 'Dos Ekis.' *Baka sabihin ng tao na puro ganoon lang ang kaya ko.*

"*Dito,* role *ko pa lang, probinsiyana.* In my other films, aggressive *ako.* It's different!"

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Mulatto hurdles seven-year barrier

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

THEY say that seven is a magical number. Next Thursday (Nov. 7), Mulatto, the popular "soul showband," will have their biggest concert ever at the Music Museum. Billed as "Journey of Soul," the show will be a celebration of the roller-coaster ride that is life, it's vicissitudes rendered soulfully through music.

Through the years, Mulatto's fan base has reached as far as the United States, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

The group is composed of Jun Lacanienta, Michael Bryan Tulin, Ryan Regino, Joey Bautista, Jazzy Manuel, Patrick Huit, Kenneth Ilagan, and Allan Dichoso.

'Darna' is coming soon

She's strong, she's brave, she flies high while fighting the forces of evil, and she's a true-blue Pinay! We're referring to none other than Darna, the country's only super-heroine, who will make a big comeback next year.

Ballet Philippines will resurrect Darna's career by way of a dance-musical production at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in August 2003.

The talents behind the production are director-writer Chris Millado, composer Jesse Lucas, and choreographers Denisa Reyes and Alden Lugnasin.

Mel Chionglo directs 'Two-Timer'

His actors are one in saying that Mel Chionglo is the most amiable director they've ever worked with.

Chionglo's new movie is "Two-Timer," starring Wendell Ramos and Ara Mina. Although the director says he's getting tired of doing sex-drama films, he doesn't have much choice because producers insist that sex-laden concepts still top the box office.

"After a while, the audience will crave for other things, and when they get tired of watching all these bodies on screen, I'll be ready to start on the movies that have been frozen in my mind for a very long time," he says.

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SHAKIRA. Colombian superstar.

Shakira wins five MTV Latin Music prizes

By Rafael Palacio

MIAMI BEACH, Florida—Colombian superstar Shakira swept all five categories in which she was nominated, including artist of the year, at the first MTV Video Music Awards for Latin America.

Big winner

The Chilean rock band La Ley also was a big winner Thursday last week, taking home honors for group or duo of the year and rock artist of the year.

The awards show, which aired live in Spanish on MTV Latin America and with English subtitles on MTV2, honored the best music videos in Latin music at the Jackie Gleason Theater.

Shakira also won video of the year for "Suerte," female artist of the year, pop artist of the year and best artist-North.

Other winners included Colombian singer-songwriter Juanes, who took home the male artist of the year award; Argentine pop singer Diego Torres, who won best artist-Southeast; and Manu Chao, who won alternative artist of the year.

Two English-language winners included Pink, for international pop artist of the year, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, for international rock artist of the year.

Other performers

The Rolling Stones opened the show. Other performers included Carlos Santana—who joined English-language singer-guitarist Michelle Branch—Mana and Shakira.

Argentine rock band Soda Stereo came together for the first time since 1997 to accept the lifetime achievement award.

Besides Shakira, the nominees for video of the year were: Enrique Iglesias, "Hero"; Juanes, "A Dios Le Pido"; Paulina Rubio, "Si Tu Te Vas"; and Torres, "Color Esperanza." *AP*

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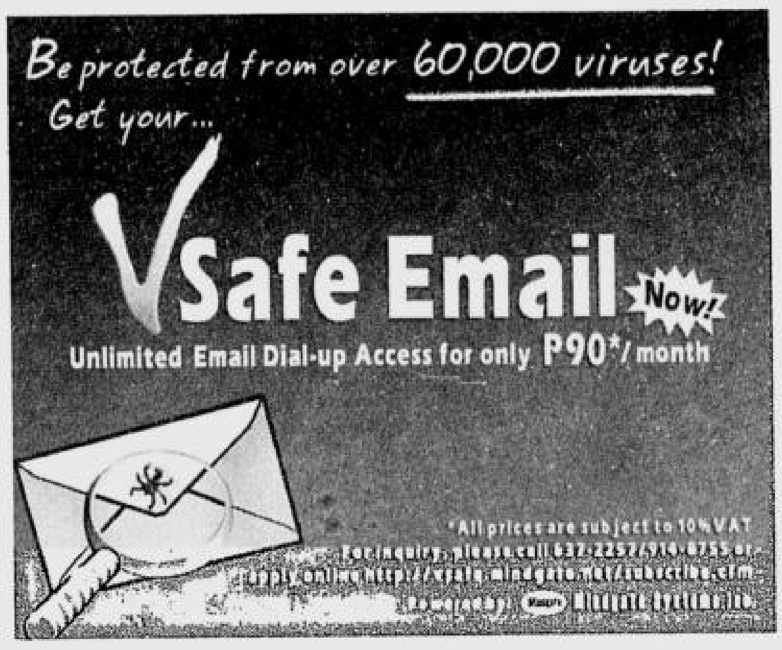

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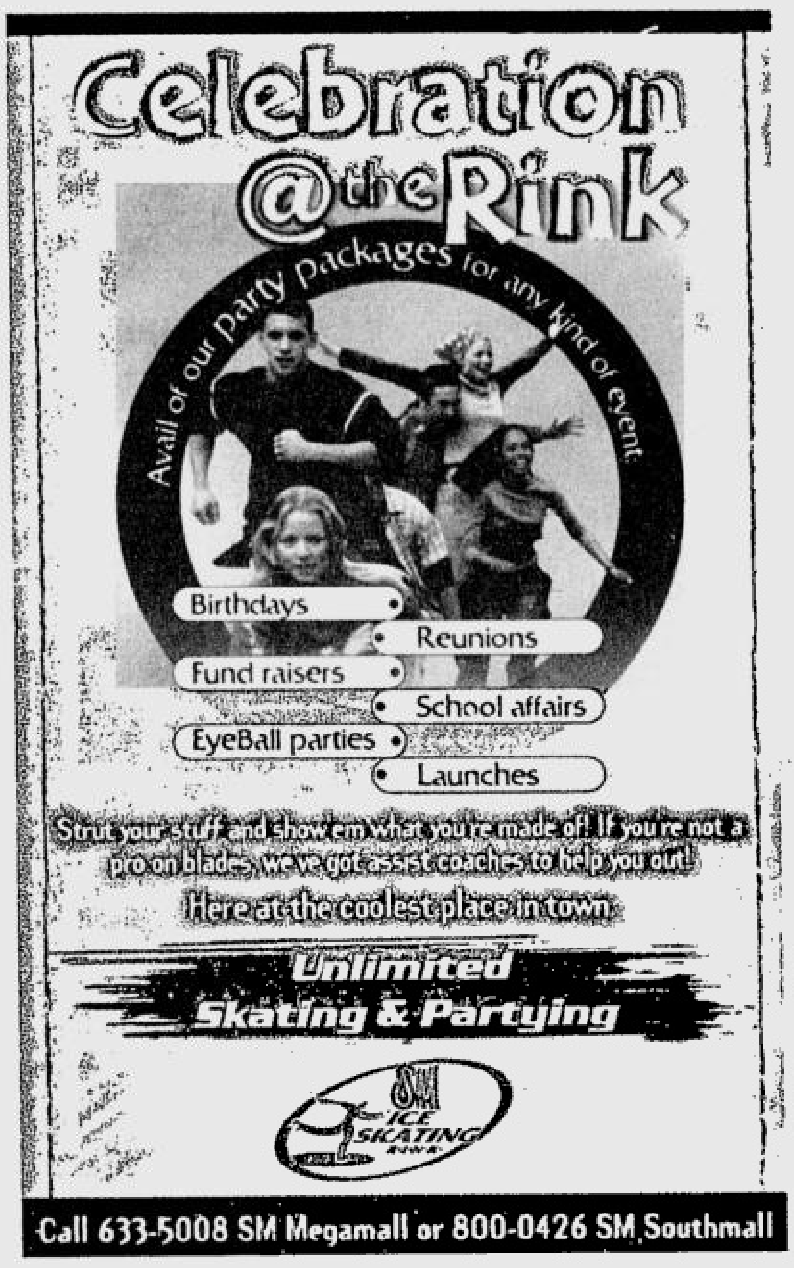

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Pioneering women film directors cited

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent column on the paucity of women directors on the local film scene has prompted some readers to wonder why the situation is the way it is, and to ask what can be done to make it easier for talented women to break into the directing scene with fewer obstacles to surmount.

To get the real lowdown, we checked with some female film people and got some insightful inputs. But first, some helpful background notes, courtesy of our friend and colleague, film historian Dr. Lynn Pareja:

Generation gap

The first Filipina movie producer could have been Carmen Concha, who produces "Oriental Blood" in 1930. The first Filipina who directed a feature film could have been Brigada Perez Villanueva, whose movie, "Pendulum of Faith, " was shown in 1933. It "highlighted the generation gap between mother and daughter, and tackled the issue of parental interference in the affairs of young people." No other film is credited to the woman director.

Other Filipina film producers in the 1930s were Malayan Movies' Doña Nena, LVN Pictures' Doña Sisang, and Mommy Vera of Sampaguita Pictures.

Character actress

Women directors? Consuelo P. Osorio began her movie career as a character actress (she was, after all, a member of the famous Padilla clan of entertainers), and later adapted Filipino novels for the movies.

LIKE Rosa Mia, Laurice Guillen first made a name for herself as an actress before becoming a film director.

After her marriage to Salvador Osorio, they became a scripting and directing team with films like "Dalagang Luksa" (1938), "Dolores" (1939) and "Tanikala ng Langit" to their credit. Later, Consuelo wrote screenplays and directed movies on her own.

Susana C. de Guzman also wrote some pre-war films like "Makasalanan at Birhen" (1938), "Pasang Krus" (1939) and "Sa Duyan ng Pagmamahal" (1940), and eventually became a movie director.

'Nagkaisang Landas'

Additional note: Carmen Concha, known as possibly the country's first female movie producer, is also credited with having directed Parlatone's "Nagkaisang Landas" (1939), LVN's "Yaman ng Mahirap" (1939) and "Pangarap" (1940).

And it isn't clear if Mari Lu, the director of X'Otic's 1938 movie, was male or female.

And what about "Luz," who is credited with having directed Araw Movies' "The Child of Sorrow" (1930)?

Meanwhile, Sampaguita Pictures' filmography cites character actress Rosa Mia as the first woman to have directed a film at the Vera-Perez studio—the 1956 production, "Takip-Silim." She also megged movies like "Torkwata," "Hahabul-Habul," "Baby Bubut," "Dewey Boulevard," "Debutante," "Pagpatak ng Ulan"—etc.

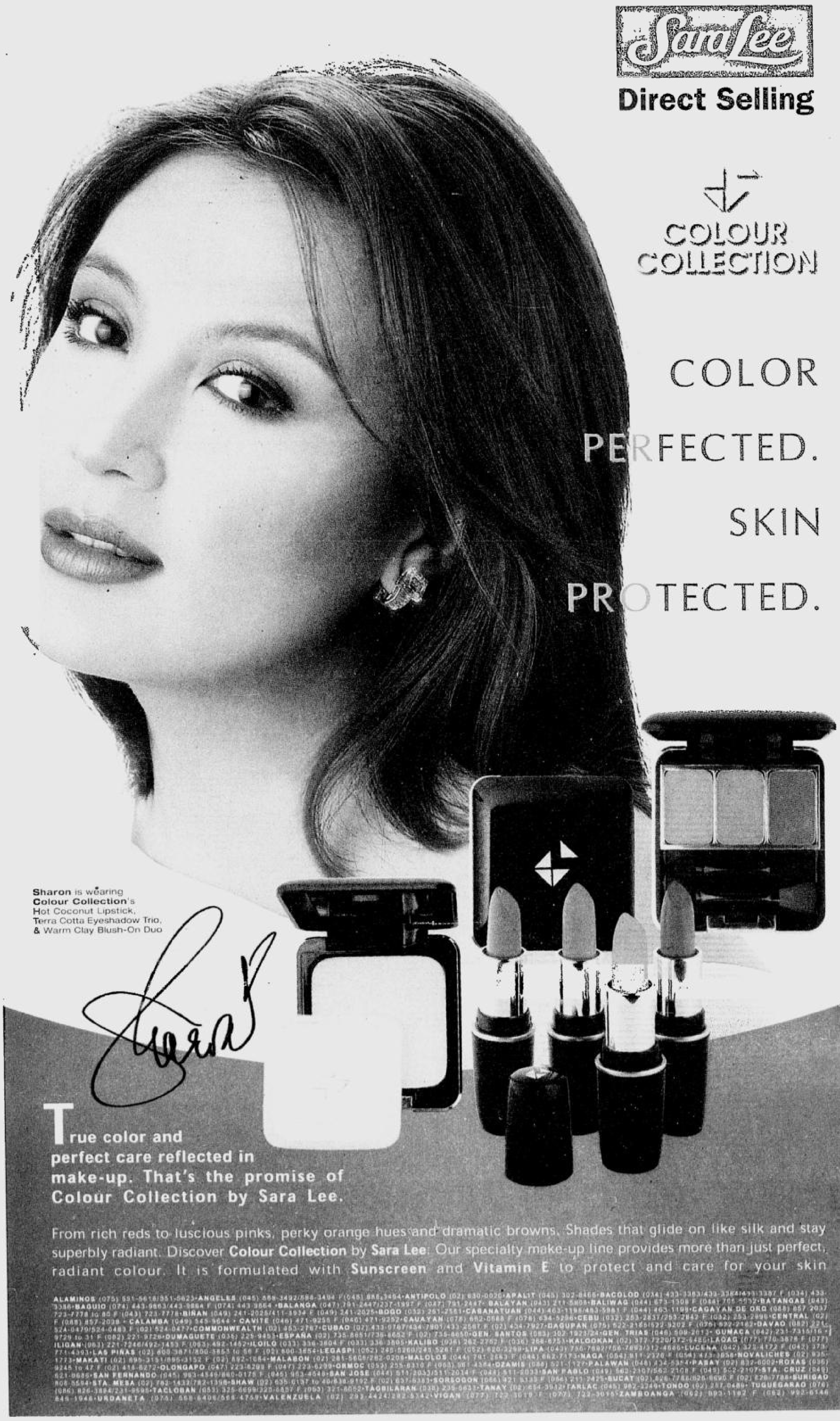
Mainstay

Clearly, she was one of the studio's mainstays in the field of direction.

As for Susana de Guzman, she first directed "Probinsiyana" in 1946, then many movies at LVN. Her first Sampaguita picture was "Magbayad ang May Utang" (1962). This was followed by "Bulung-bulungan."

In 1969, Mitos Villareal directed "9 Teeners," "Young Love," "Stop, Look, Listen" and "Petrang Paminta" (all in one year!).

Later, other women directors like Maria Saret, Zenaida Amador and Lupita Concio came to the fore, but only two at a time. Today, there are five women directors active on the local movie scene—Laurice Guillen. Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Olivia Lamasan, Rory B. Quintos and Joyce Bernal. But many more are needed!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Chef Ed Quimson whips up a memorable tapas treat

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

WITH the birth of nouvelle cuisine, many traditional cuisines were slowly phased out. It is now more difficult to find traditional French, Spanish or some other European cuisine around. The days of Au Bon Vivant, Madrid and New Europe have just become memories. But, just like the awakening of "oldies " music, I strongly believe there is still a longing for those stars of the good, old days.

Authenticity

Among the finest cuisines offered by Manila then was authentic Spanish food. Today, there are only a handful of restaurants that can claim authenticity. Of course, when Don Anastacio Alba of Alba's is manning the kitchen, it doesn't get more authentic than that.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to a tapas bar in Makati by my food-tripping friends. Not a very appealing invitation, I thought, for I had experienced many in the past that weren't exceptional.

I was more excited about the get-together than the food. Call it OA, but I really feel down when I experience an unsatisfactory meal.— "*Sayang ang* space."

I call it passion for food. Anyway, everything changed when I was told that chef Ed Quimson was handling the kitchen.

Combination

Ed is the type of chef who can create dishes that will make you wonder, "How the heck did he think of that combination?" From his bag of tricks, he can also prepare the most authentic Spanish dishes—and, from this experience, authentic tapas too. The meal will long be remembered.

When I arrived, our hosts, Bong and Lisa, gave Ed a free hand on what he wanted to serve us. Usually, we give our own suggestions and you know who among your friends' taste yours won't agree with. "*Di kayo magkavibes sa* taste." So, to play it safe, Bong and Lisa gave Ed a free hand.

Fresh anchovies

What was supposed to be a tapas meal became a complete one: Boquerones, which are fresh anchovies in vinegrette and garlic; jamon Serrano (I would have wanted to see a Hamon Jabugo—same but, I feel, better. This is from Barcelona); Pescado *ala* sal—fresh fish covered with rock salt and served with two kinds of sauces, alioli and tomato sauce; cuchi frito—roast suckling pig; callos; agachonas—twice-cooked boneless snipes; jamon al horno—baked ham; pate champignon—mushroom pate; batido sardinas; tortilla patata—potato omelette; chorizo ala flamenca—Spanish chorizo sauted with tomato and garlic; croquetas bacalao; malasamosa tinapa (*may naligaw*), gambas special, and paella. Among all these, which do I recommend? *All!*

Great dishes

The great dishes I would turn cartwheels over are the Pescado *ala* sal, Callos with Spanish chorizo and tender beef tripes, the Agachonas, tortilla de Patata, chorizo ala flamenca, croquetas, gambas and of course, Ed's paella.

With a nice crusty bread like a good baguette, this meal will take you right to heaven. I don't remember what Ed gave us for dessert but I can tell you it is also worth having. Ask him. Happy eating!

Rastro Pica Pica Bar is at the Power Plant in Makati. For reservations, call tel. no. 898 0957.

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Regine sings signature songs in Onstage concert series

By Edmund L. Sicam

VELASQUEZ. 13 albums in 17 years.

REGINE Velasquez has yet another concert series coming up—"Songbird Sings" at Onstage Greenbelt, Makati starting on Nov. 8. So what's so special about it? "This concert is going to be all about me—how I started, the songs I have recorded. I've never done a concert like this *na tungkol lahat sa akin.*

"This time, *lahat ng kakantahin ko, may kahulugan sa buhay ko at sa pagii*-stay *ko* in this business," explains Regine. "I'm gonna sing a couple of songs from my first album like 'Urong-Sulong,' a couple of my old hits, *tapos mga* songs *na ni*-revive *ko*. Plus some surprises."

After recording 13 albums in 17 years, Regine suddenly realized how many songs she has recorded so far. *"Kaya, naisip ko, bakit hindi ko kantahin yung mga* songs *na na*-identify *sa akin?"*

Lyrics

However, she admits that sometimes she does not remember the lyrics to her own songs! "*Kasi, sa tagal ng hindi ko kinakanta, nakakalimutan ko na.*"

Regine observes that there are some songs that the audience just never seems to tire of. She tries to weed out these songs from her repertoire, especially when she wants to sing something new. "But they keep requesting them, so I can't take them out, '*no*?" she says.

The singer admits that, as an artist, she does get tired of singing the same songs over and over. "*Lalo na kung, madami kaming* shows in a year. *Kinanta ko na siguro ang* 'On the Wings of Love' *nakahiga, nakadapa, nakatiwarik! Baka sa susunod,* underwater *na—pero* 'On the Wings' *pa rin*!" But seriously, Regine says she never refuses a request from the audience. "I think I owe it to them."

Different interpretation

"*Ang ginagawa ko na lang,* I dress it up, so *meron namang* excitement for me. Like of course I'm going to sing 'On the Wings of Love' here, but we're going to change it a little bit. I'm doing it underwater. With matching piranha," kids Regine.

After winning an acting award, Regine says people have been encouraging her to do heavy drama. Regine is very reluctant to go in that direction. "*Hindi ko pa masyadong mapanindigan kasi ayokong sumalpak sa* area *na alam kong hindi ko pa masyadong kabisado.*"

Regine says she feels blessed to have worked with some in the best actors in the industry. "*Natutulungan ako, nabibigyan ako ng 'mga* techniques, so hopefully *makakagawa rin ako ng* movie *na mano*-nominate *na ako* for Best Actress," she says wistfully.

Regine says she is more at ease doing heavy drama on television than for the big screen. "*Kasi ang* TV, *dere-deretso. Hindi nila kina*-cut *yung* emotion."

Misery

Regine also hates crying and working up the emotions required for a dramatic scene. "*Parang ang ganda ng araw mo,* happy *ka, kumain ka ng masarap, tapos iiyak ka?*" she complains. To add to her misery, Regine says that everytime she cries, her face gets big. "*Namamaga yung ilong ko. Ang pangit talaga! Nagmumukha akong siopao!*" She would really prefer to do light romantic comedies.

"Songbird Sings" has weekend performances until Dec. 28. Call 551-7777 or 891-5610.

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Nestlé Cerelac, 1977

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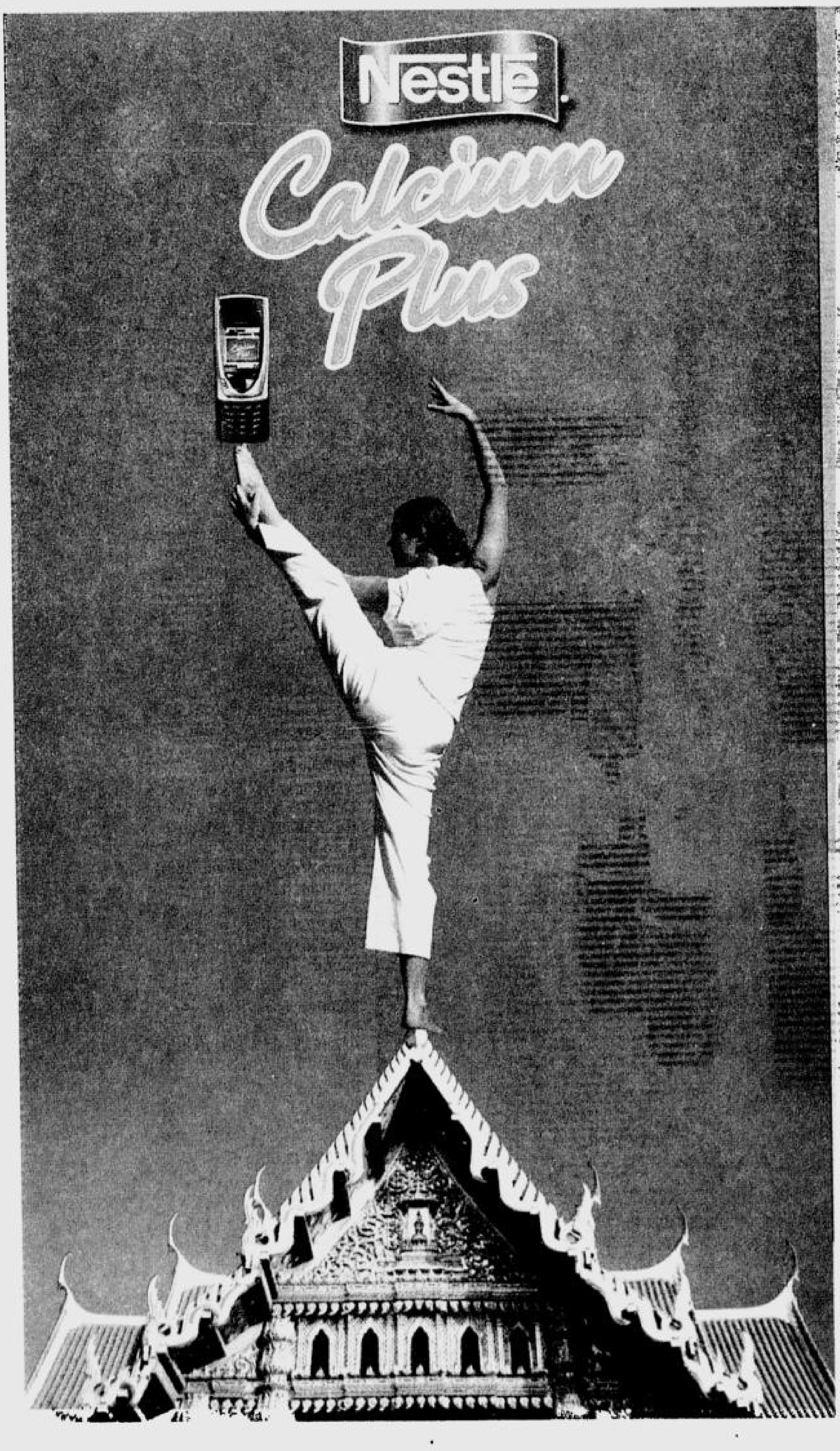

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Giant Shoe Page 2
- Kids speak up Page 4
- Story: Lolo's Funeral Page 6
- Shirley's Pets Page 11

The Girls' Band Next-Door

A neighborhood girl's band is out to conquer a world bigger than Tandang Sora!

By Maria Zobel Certeza

ANGELS can sing melodious songs of praise in heaven. But, have you heard of angels singing about riding a bicycle and eating ice cream?

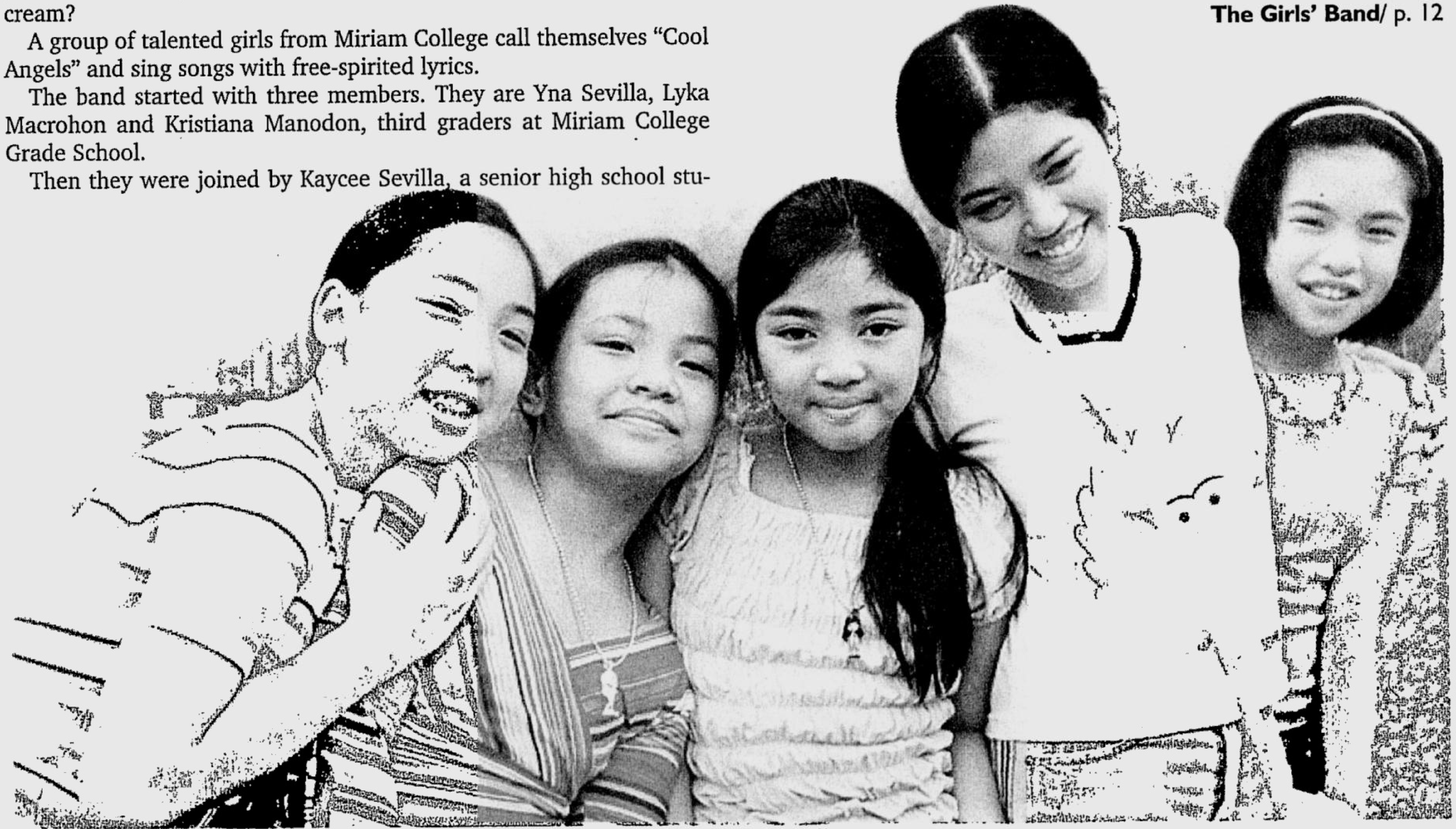
A group of talented girls from Miriam College call themselves "Cool Angels" and sing songs with free-spirited lyrics.

The band started with three members. They are Yna Sevilla, Lyka Macrohon and Kristiana Manodon, third graders at Miriam College Grade School.

Then they were joined by Kaycee Sevilla, a senior high school student and Kaye Macrohon, a 7th grader.

Lyka thought of the band's name: Cool Angels. She explained that all the members of the band are good and cool so they all agreed that

The Girls' Band/ p. 12



L-R: Kaye, Kristiana, Yna, Kaycee, Lyka want more neighbors, este, people to listen.

ROGER CARPIO

World Scope

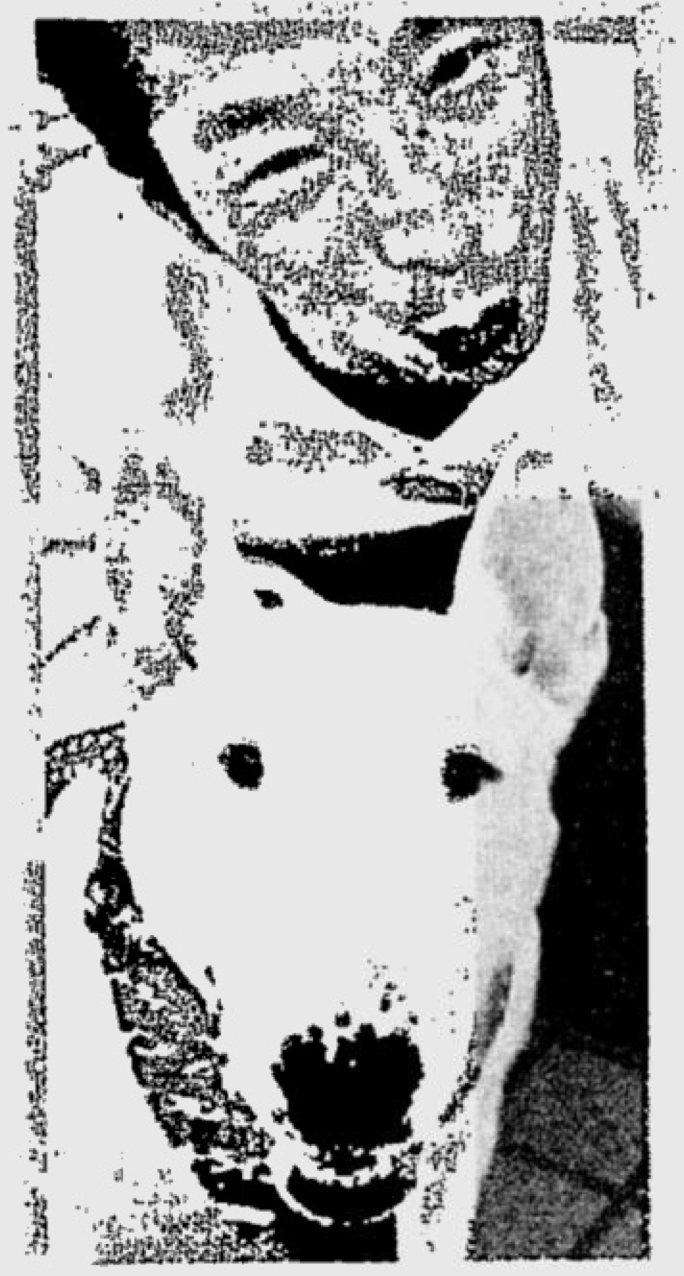
Rome, Italy
Tokyo, Japan
Hyderabad, India
Marikina City, Philippines

India's Chestmaster

VISHWANATHAN Anand talks to the media after winning the World Chess Cup 2002 in Hyderabad, India, Oct. 20. Indian Anand beat Uzbekistan's Kasimdzhanov in the finals. *AP*

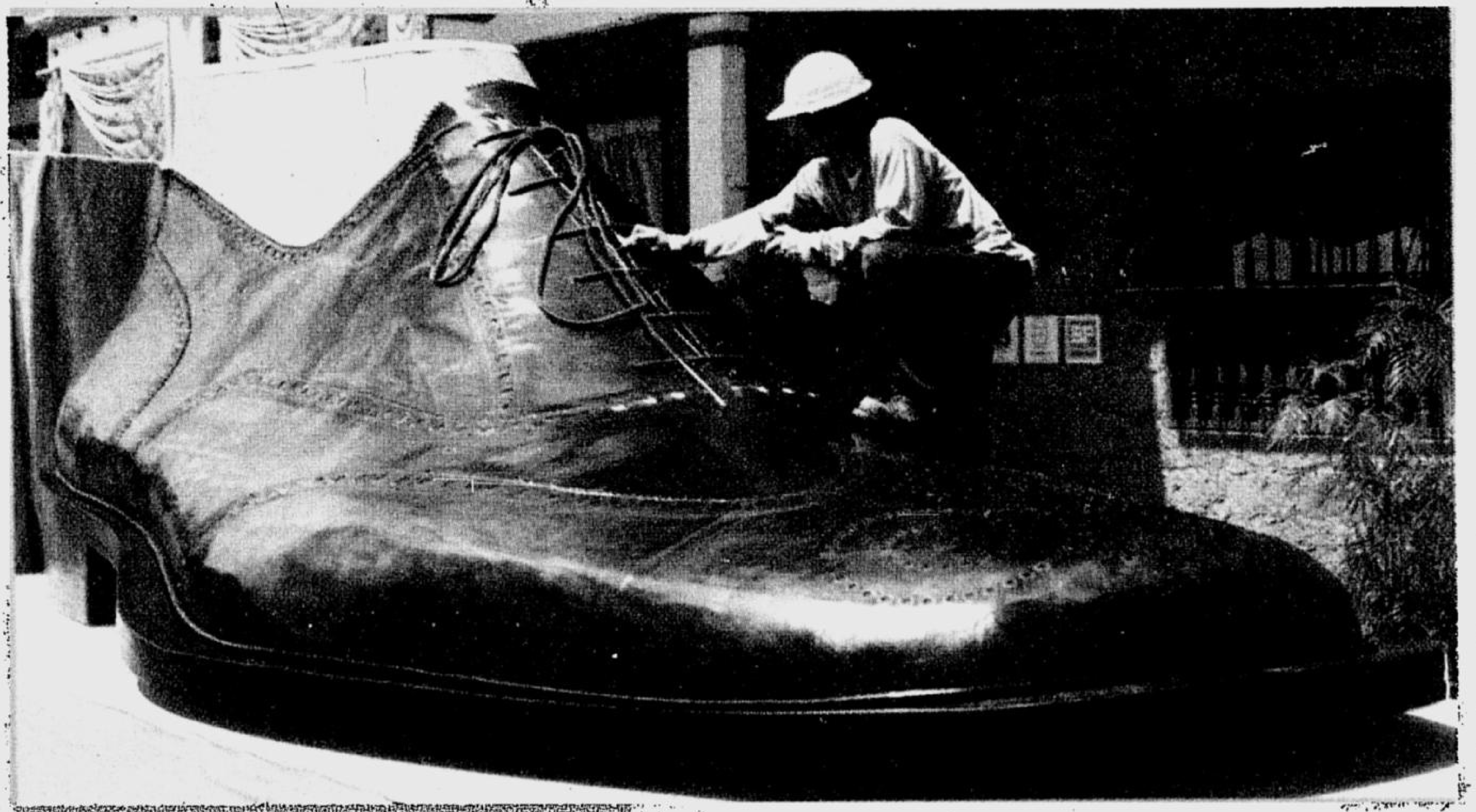
JP2 and the Many Saints

POPE John Paul II looks on during a beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square. The 82-year-old Pontiff, who already has set records for creating saints, last month put six more people on the road to Roman Catholic sainthood during a solemn ceremony. *Reuters*



Look-Alikes

LOVE truly knows no limits when it comes to pets and their people. Norio Okamura certainly doesn't mind being called a dog look-alike. Here he poses with his bull-terrier Algernon at a look-alike contest for pets and owners in Tokyo, Japan. *AP*



Marikina's Pride

A PINOY worker cleans a giant shoe, said to be the world's largest, in preparation for its unveiling in Marikina City on Oct. 21. Shoe manufacturers in Marikina banded together to construct the giant shoe, measuring 5.5 meters in length, to promote the local shoe industry. The giant shoes took two months to finish. *Reuters*

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshop

MUSICAL THEATER. Sacred Heart School opens its Musical Theater Workshop to kids ages 3-12. The workshop runs from Nov. 16 to February 1, every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. For details, call 810-8506 or 894-2273.

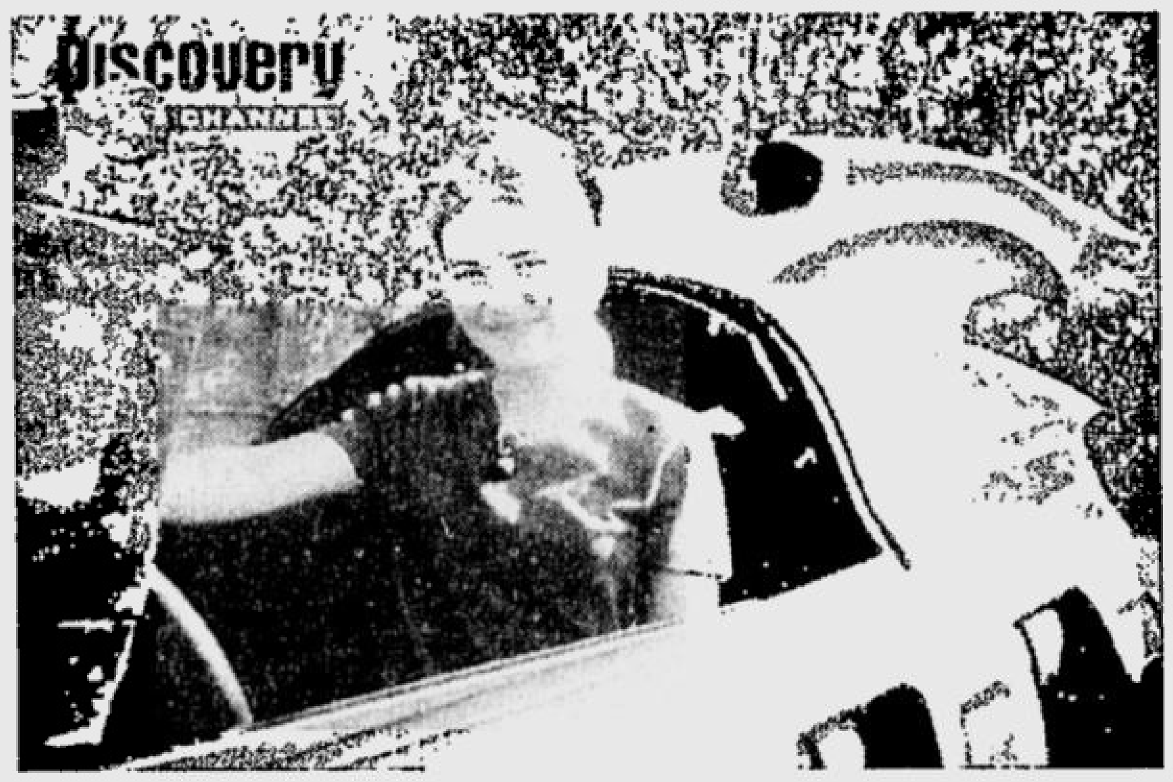
Contests

CHRISTMAS CARD. Join KidsActs Philippines Christmas card drawing contest. Artists 14 years old and below can join. The theme is: **"Give Love on Christmas Day!"** Use any medium on an 8.5 x 11-inch white drawing paper or cardboard. You can submit as many as 3 designs. Send them to KidsActs Philippines, No. 15 Sunrise St., La Paz Village, Makati City not later than Dec. 9, 6 p.m. For more info, please call 896-7656 (Eugene), 0919-4132282 (Luigi), or e-mail kids_acts@hotmail.com.

ON-THE-SPOT DRAWING. Star Kids Daycare International invites kids to join its on-the-spot Christmas Drawing Contest. The theme for this one is **"Ang Pasko ay Pagbibigayan at Pagmamahalan."** Be at the 2nd Flr., South Wing of Metropolis Star, Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Nov. 30, Saturday, 3 p.m. Category 1 is for kids ages 5 to 7, while Category 2 is for 8-to 12-year-olds. Call 543-3927/56 local 148 for more details.

Exhibit

SCIENCE EXHIBIT. Check out the Discovery-Traveling Science Centrum at the Megacenter Mall in Cabanatuan City from Nov. 4-24. The exhibit **features 42 interactive modules.** For more info, call the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology at 536-3059 or 525-8418 (telefax).



COOL CAR. Host Elisha gears up for an exciting ride in "Popular Mechanics for Kids."

Cable Picks

YOUNG AND WILD. Every Wednesday this November, catch "Young and Wild," a series about the survival of young animals. Take a look at **how baby animals learn to survive later on in life** without their parents. Premieres on Nov. 6 as part of Wednesday Wilderness on Animal Planet from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Episodes encore the following Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

MAHOUT MEG. Catch the premiere of "In the Wild: Meg Ryan" on Nov. 2 from 7-8 p.m. on Animal Planet. **Actress Meg Ryan experiences being a *mahout*** or personal driver and joins conservationists and elephant enthusiasts in the jungle of Thailand. Join Meg on her visit to an elephant nursery and in her search for the elusive white elephant. Encores on Nov. 9 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

HOW THINGS WORK. Enter a dark cave, build an armored car and discover how movies create winter snow scenes—all these in **"Popular Mechanics for Kids."** For thrills on land or water, join Discovery Kids' young hosts every Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 to 8 a.m. on Discovery Channel.

BEHIND "HARRY POTTER." Discover what inspired author J.K. Rowling to write about Harry Potter. Catch **"On the Inside: The Real World of Harry Potter,"** premieres on Nov. 9 from 8-9 p.m. Meet Ian Potter, Rowling's childhood friend, and journey beneath Platform 9 1/2 in London's Kings Cross Station. Investigate the origins of the Philosopher's Stone and know the story of the ghost of the Grey Lady of Chillingham Castle! Encores on Nov 10 at 6 a.m. and Nov. 16 at 1 p.m.

Animal Planet

MEG sits near an adult elephant.

Discovery CHANNEL

PROFESSOR Dumbledore in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

WE SUPPORT
WORTHWHILE
AND BALANCED
CHILDREN'S
PROGRAM

BRING THEM BACK, PLEASE! Students of St. Benedict School of Learning in Imus, Cavite want quality shows for kids back on air.

BETOY JOHNSON

Cavite studes seek return of "Five and Up" & Chikiting Patrol"

"I ALWAYS watch '5 and Up,'" says 10-year-old Ace Christian Seraon. One day, however, Ace turned on the TV. The show was not there.

Ace and about 400 other students from the Benedictine Institute of Learning in Cavite won't take this development sitting down.

With the help of values education teacher Ricardo Cifra, they started a petition. The message: bring back children's TV shows "5 and Up" and "Chikiting Patrol" both on Channel 7.

Parents and teachers also signed the appeal. This brought the signatures to a total of 479.

After that, they sent copies of the document to Senator Ramon Revilla, Cavite Governor Maliksi, Imus Mayor Homer Sakilayan, and Junior Inquirer editor Natasha Vizcarra.

"I want them to know that there are still kids who still want to watch balanced programs," explained Ace. "Other children, especially those in Mindanao no longer see anything other than violence. Somehow good children's programs help lessen the trauma of violence."

Off the Air

"Five and Up" and "Chikiting Patrol" both went off the air on July 14. Both programs have kids as on-air reporters and feature topics that are both educational and just plain fun.

What does it mean when a show is not making money?

Well, TV stations make money by selling air time to companies who, in turn, want to sell their products. These are what you know as "commercials."

A TV program does not make money for itself or the channel when it does not attract many commercials. This means that the companies think not many people watch that certain program.

Heartwarming

Twelve-year-old Giggles Arceo, one of "5 and Up's" reporters, said she felt flattered that the Cavite students went through the trouble of starting a petition. Fellow reporter Frances Fleta, 14, said she was "extremely happy" about it too. "We really want '5 and Up' to be brought back on the air," Frances told JI.

"It's very heartwarming to know that some people have taken the effort to petition for '5 and Up' and other children's shows to come back," said Cheche Lazaro, the woman behind Probe Productions and "5 and Up." "I take my hat off to these young kids who have expressed how they feel about the show."

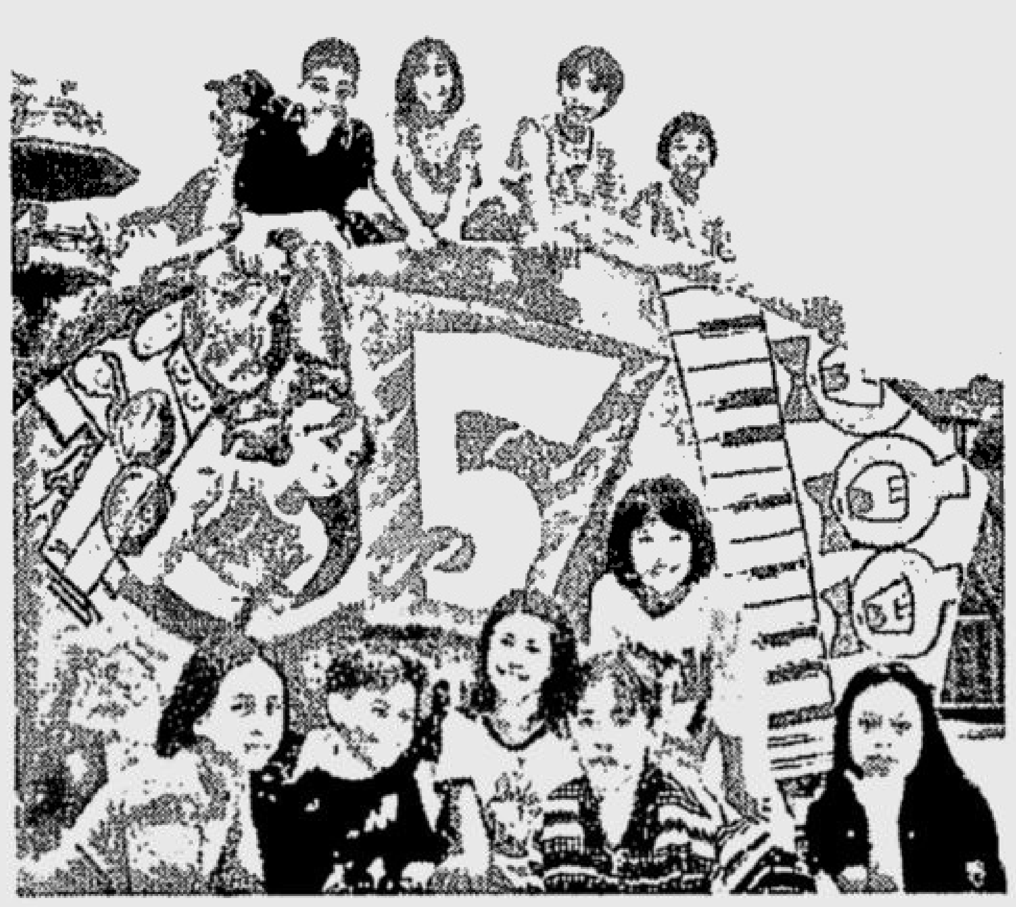
Cheche speaks

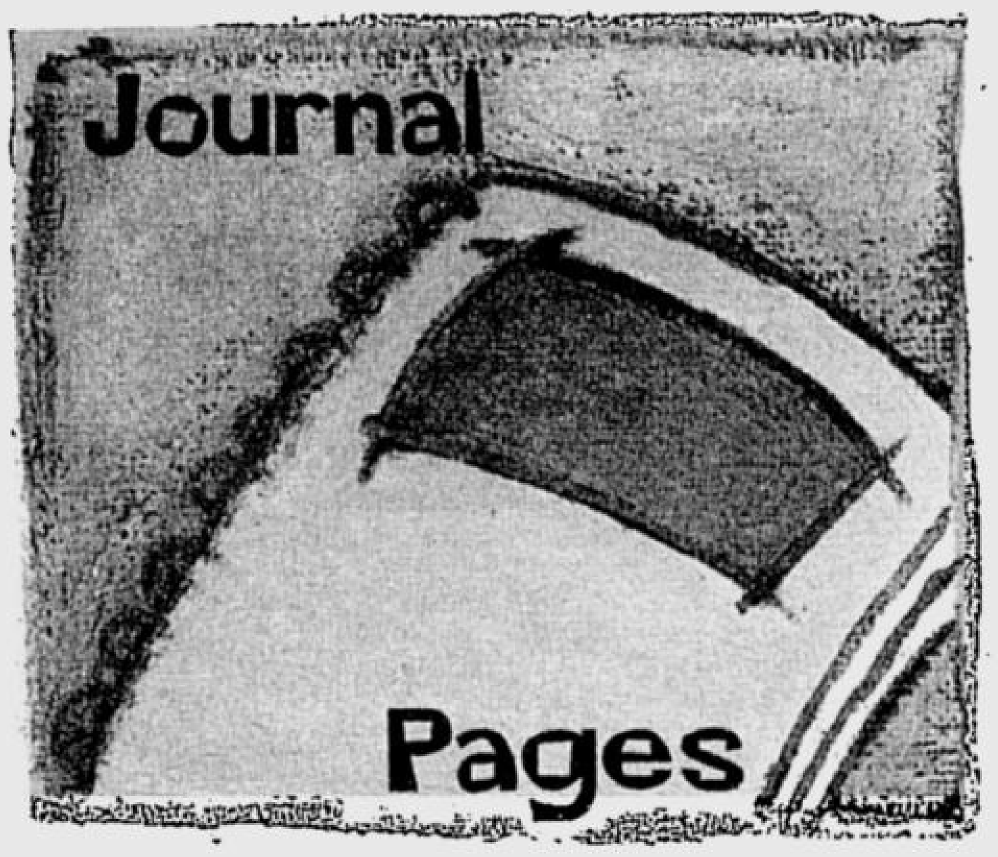
"I support them but at the same time I do understand where the carrying station GMA is coming from and GMA has been extremely supportive of '5 and Up' for the last ten years" Ms Lazaro said. "I hope the petition is heard and I hope something good comes from it. And I thank the kids."

Only last Oct. 22, "5 and Up" added another feather to its cap by winning a special citation from the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

"We're always happy about recognition given to us by people outside and inside the industry. While it is not the ultimate goal of every show that we produce, it's just like the gilding on the lid. It's a bonus for us," Ms Lazaro said. "But our main point is producing shows that we feel will have positive contributions to the audiences that we serve."

"To all people out there who don't know what do with their money," Giggles half-joked, "sponsor us instead." *Eline Santos*





Making New Friends

By Maia Therese Leviste Azores
Canossa College
San Pablo City, Laguna

I AM the little one in front with my new friends at Villa Escudero—Brendan, Chris, Jenny, Tina, Jenny, Michelle, Emily and Brad.

FOR TEN days in July, we had guests from Cotter High School in Winona, Minnesota, USA. They came here to the Philippines to learn about our culture.

My school, Canossa College, welcomed them and prepared nice activities. There were eight American students. They spent a whole day in my school. They were like "stars." All the Canossians wanted to know more about them. Each American student got a high school partner from my school to guide them during their stay here. I was the only grade school kid that got to join the group.

We visited many places together, like Villa Escudero, many old churches in Laguna and the Malabanban Watershed. We climbed a mountain to plant trees in the watershed. We saw three of the seven lakes that San Pablo City is famous for. We even rode on a raft and ate fish that the fishermen caught.

The Cotter kids were not very good about trying our Filipino food. We brought them to Exotik Restaurant, which serves monitor lizard (*bayawak*), python (*sawa*), frog (*palaka*), and goat (*kambing*), but they would not try them. They really only liked lumpia, pancit and white rice.

The Cotter kids also got to go to a rural community, but I didn't get to go. They got to do chores with the families there. One night, we had a candlelight service in my grandmother's chapel. We had a paraliturgy where the Cotter kids shared their experiences. They said they loved the Philippines because the people are always smiling and kind to them.

In Manila, the group went shopping, shop-

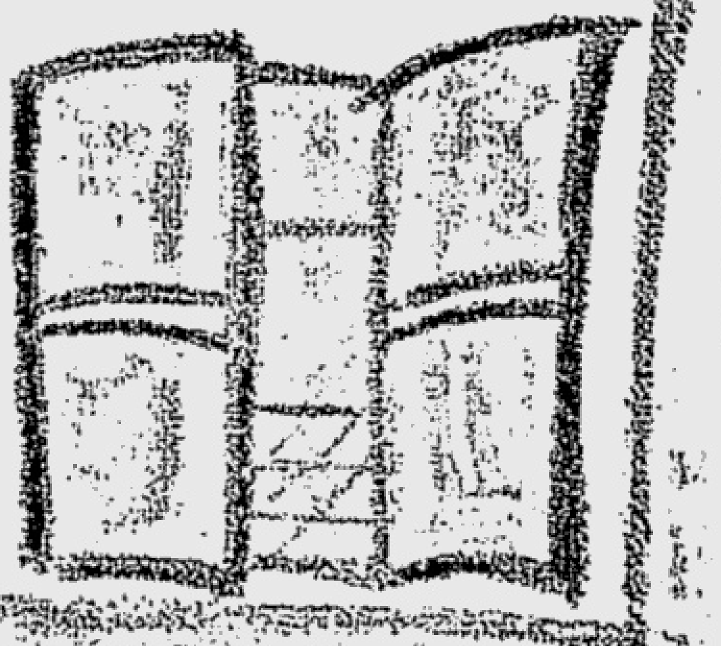
Making / p. 12

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Grown-up Likes JI

HI! I'm Louie, a freshman coed from AMACLC! I really love reading your magazine every Saturday! See? I'm in college yet I'm still reading your dear mag. Keep up the good work!—**LOUISA CATEMPOHAN**, Muntinlupa City

Samurai X

I really think that Samurai X is the greatest anime. I really enjoy watching it on ABS-CBN every 4:30 p.m., Mondays-Fridays and on Studio 23, Mondays-Wednesdays. The story was created by Watsuki Nabuhiro and is set during the Tokugawa and Meiji or Edo period. A samurai called Kenshin Himura lost his wife while he serves as an Ishinshishi member during the Tokugawa period and killed many Shinsen members. He was feared and was called Batousai, the Slasher. He wandered all around Japan, then he met new friends, Cori Kamiya, Yoshi Miyojin, Sanosuke Sagara and Megumi Takani.—**KERITH MARK C. DE OCAMPO**, Recoletos Academy, Antipolo City

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FOR or By KIDS

Lolo'
Fune

Danny says goodbye to his grandfather, a great Filipino writer. But h

By Narita M. Gonzalez
Illustrations by Paolo Lim

I WAS surprised to see Mommy in school before dismissal time. She came to talk to my teacher about advance assignments for ten days.

"Danny, we have to fly to the Philippines tomorrow. Your Lolo is very ill," Mom said.

AS SOON as we landed in Manila, we went directly to the Cardinal Santos Hospital.

Grandma was at Lolo's bedside, gently massaging his arm. Some of our other relatives were there, too. Lolo had a respirator in his mouth. It made some gurgling sounds. The machines high up by Lolo's bed were beeping all the time.

"Why doesn't he open his eyes, Lola? Doesn't he know I'm here?" I asked.

"Lolo's unconscious, But he can hear you if you come closer. Go say something."

There were steel guards on the sides of his bed. But I went near anyway and said, "Lolo, I'm here with Mommy. When will we go fishing?"

Grandmother—who was dry-eyed—suddenly sobbed. Mommy embraced her and they cried together.

Grandma took me in her arms and said, "Lolo won't wake up anymore."

My cousin Cher approached us and said," Let's go home to UP now. Let your Mommy stay longer here." We drove to Lolo's house in the campus.

THE following day, Mommy explained all about Lolo's

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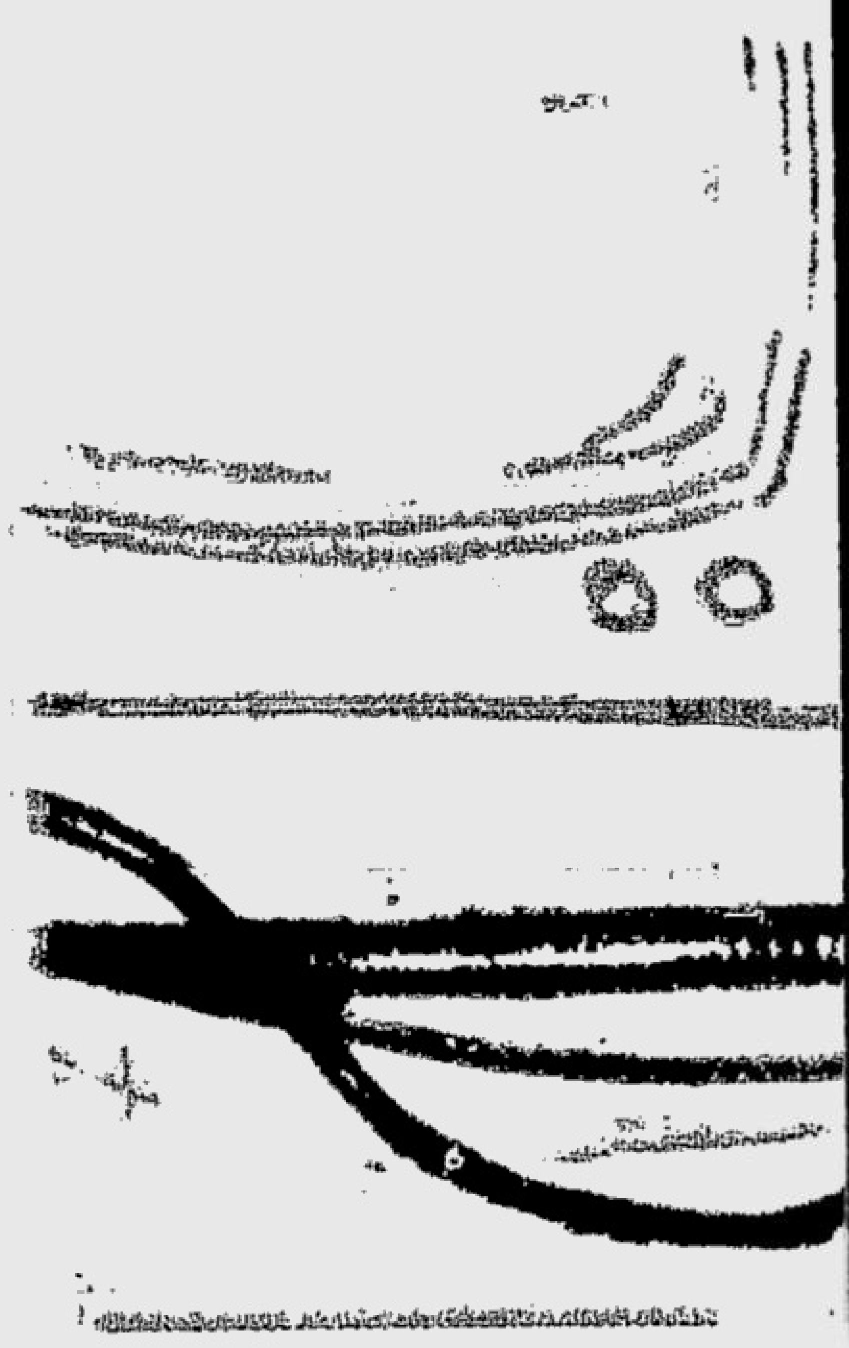

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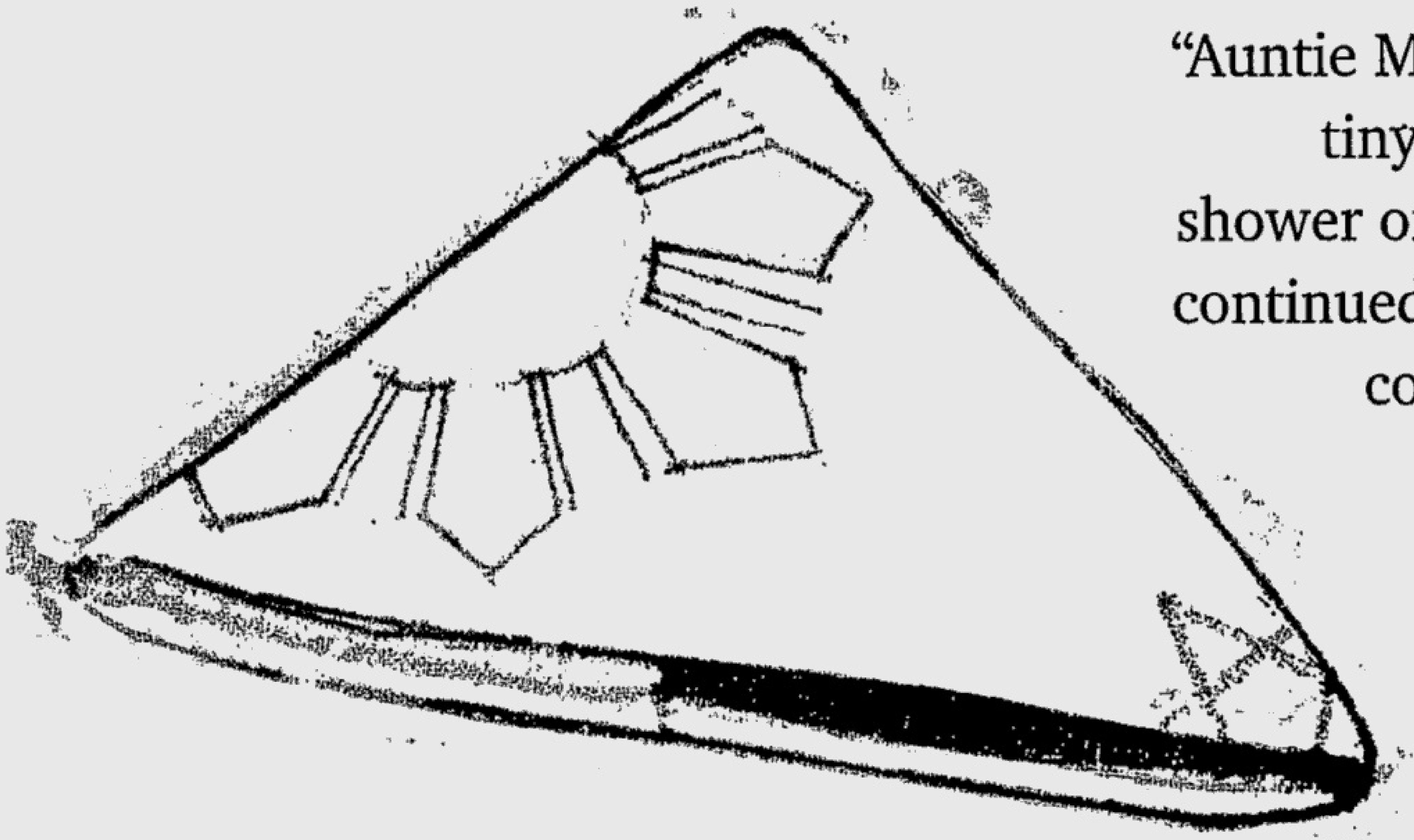


"Auntie Mel thought they were tiny moths, until a heavy shower of many white confetti continued to fall down, almost covering Lolo's casket."

is Lolo's death lets him see how brave his mother and his Lola can be.

lition. Lolo had slipped hit his head. He had a se- bleeding in his brain. bleeding caused blood els around his brain to l. The doctor says he is n-dead.

le will never recover such brain damage," nmy said. She cried and raced me. I cried with

lo died the following t. Mommy told me we lucky to have seen him re his heart stopped.

Lolo's coffin was white. Auntie Ser said we didn't have to pin flowers on the lid of the coffin. We would keep his coffin simple.

A half-draped Philippine flag was placed over the lower part of the coffin. An army guard stood at attention at one side of the casket all the time, night and day.

"Go see," my cousin Bess said, wanting to make me smile. "The soldier doesn't blink his eyes at all."

BEAUTIFUL wreaths surrounded Lolo's casket. Mommy said Lolo was going to have a state funeral. He would be buried at the heroes' cemetery, called Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"You were here when he was made National Artist for Literature two years ago, remember?" Lola said. Remembering that day in 1997, Lola wept as she held my hands.

Our car followed Lolo's casket all the way from the campus to Manila. A group of soldiers came to accompany Lolo's casket to Cultural Center of the Philippines where a National Necro Service was to be held for Lolo. We drove against the traffic.

Lola and Mommy were dry-eyed during the service. I was also dry-eyed. When they cried, I also cried.

Uncle Bar spoke for the family but I couldn't understand everything he said. He spoke in Filipino. Earlier, my cousins were teaching me some words, like *salamat* and *kumusta*.

I LIKED best the shower of confetti after all the tributes. At first Auntie Mel thought they were tiny moths, until a heavy shower of many white confetti continued to fall down, almost covering Lolo's casket.

Then everybody stood up and clapped. I, too, clapped my hands.

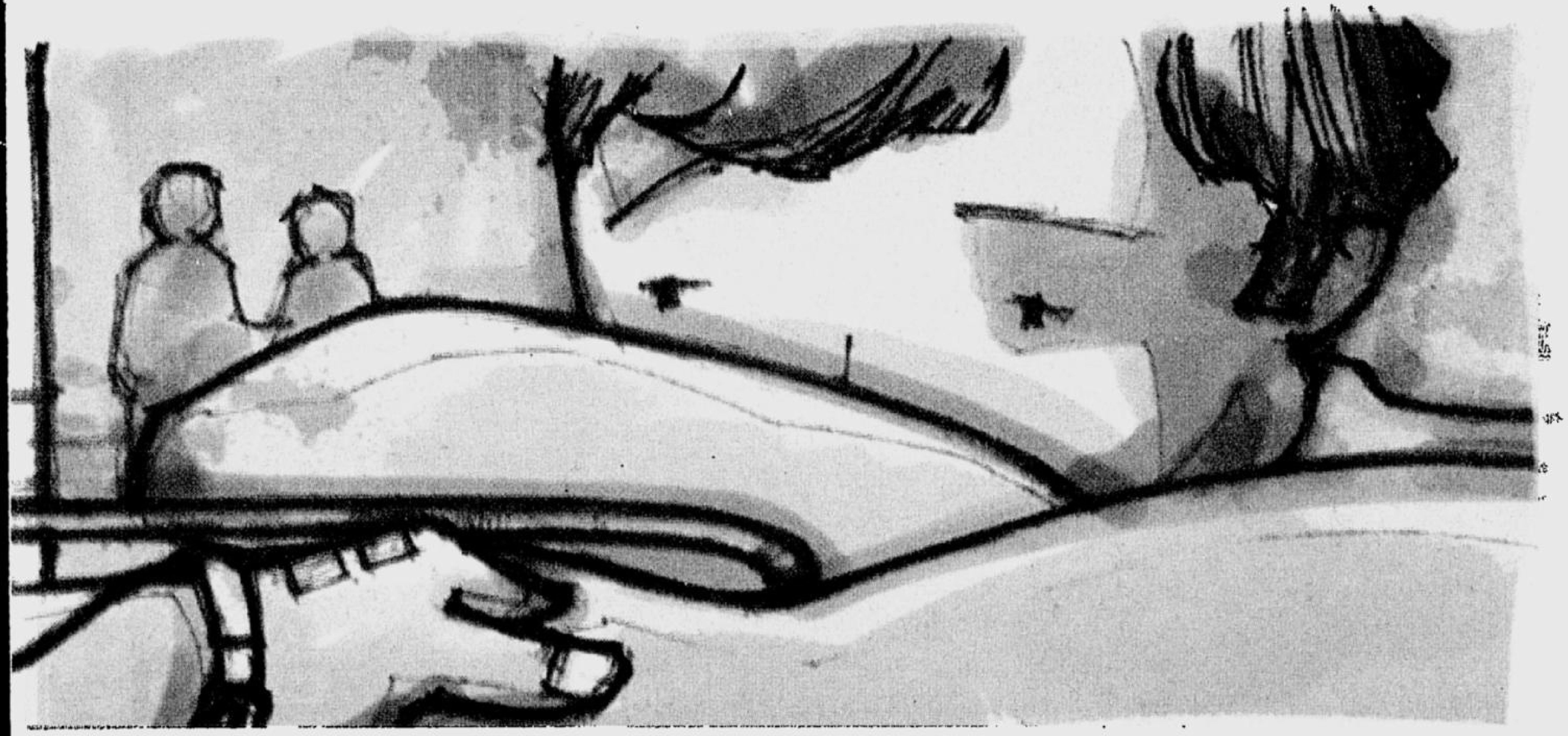
At the cemetery I stayed close to Lola. All of us sprinkled holy water on Lolo's casket. The 21-gun salute was not too loud.

Two soldiers removed the flag draped over Lolo's casket. They folded the flag into a triangle and then gave it to Lola. Lola and Mommy dropped flowers on Lolo's casket as it was being lowered into the grave. I gently tossed a rose.

"Goodbye, Lolo," I whispered.

My Lola was brave. She did not cry nor sob. She was able to thank all those who came to the burial services.

We drove home. That was when Lola really broke down and sobbed. We all cried, too. We know we will all miss my Lolo.



***Narita** lives in Quezon City. She is the widow of the late National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzalez.*

***Paolo** is a part-time illustrator, sometime graphic designer and full-time procrastinator. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

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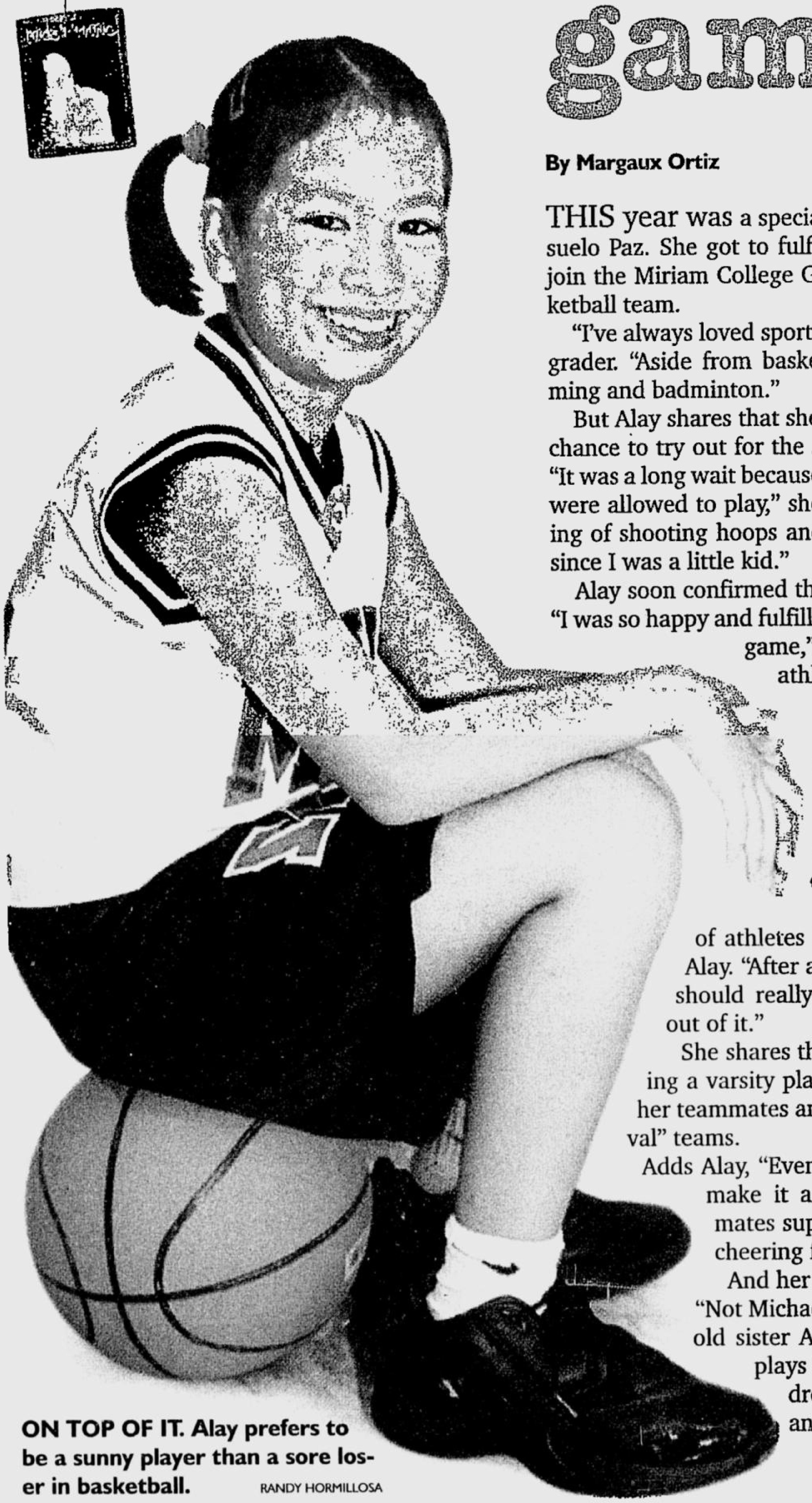
She loves this game!



By Margaux Ortiz

THIS year was a special year for Alay Ma. Consuelo Paz. She got to fulfill a longtime dream: to join the Miriam College Grade School varsity basketball team.

"I've always loved sports," relates the sunny fifth grader. "Aside from basketball, I also love swimming and badminton."

But Alay shares that she patiently waited for the chance to try out for the school's basketball team. "It was a long wait because only grade five students were allowed to play," she says. "I've been dreaming of shooting hoops and being part of the team since I was a little kid."

Alay soon confirmed that the wait was worth it. "I was so happy and fulfilled when we won our first game," beams the 10-year-old athlete.

Value-laden Game

Playing basketball has taught Alay a lot of things. Among these are the importance of sportsmanship, cooperation and discipline.

"It's really unbecoming of athletes to be sore losers," muses Alay. "After all it's just a game and we should really just make the most fun out of it."

She shares that one of the perks of being a varsity player is her friendship with her teammates and even the athletes of "rival" teams.

Adds Alay, "Even when I don't feel well, I make it a point to give my teammates support through prayers and cheering for them as they play."

And her basketball idol?

"Not Michael Jordan, but my 16-year-old sister Ate Diwa," she grins. "She plays basketball so well and my dream is to become a veteran athlete like her."

ON TOP OF IT. Alay prefers to be a sunny player than a sore loser in basketball. RANDY HORMILLOSA

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ____________________
____
____
Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
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She/he lives at ____________________
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and studies at ____________________
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Her/his contact number is:
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Sender's Name: ____________________
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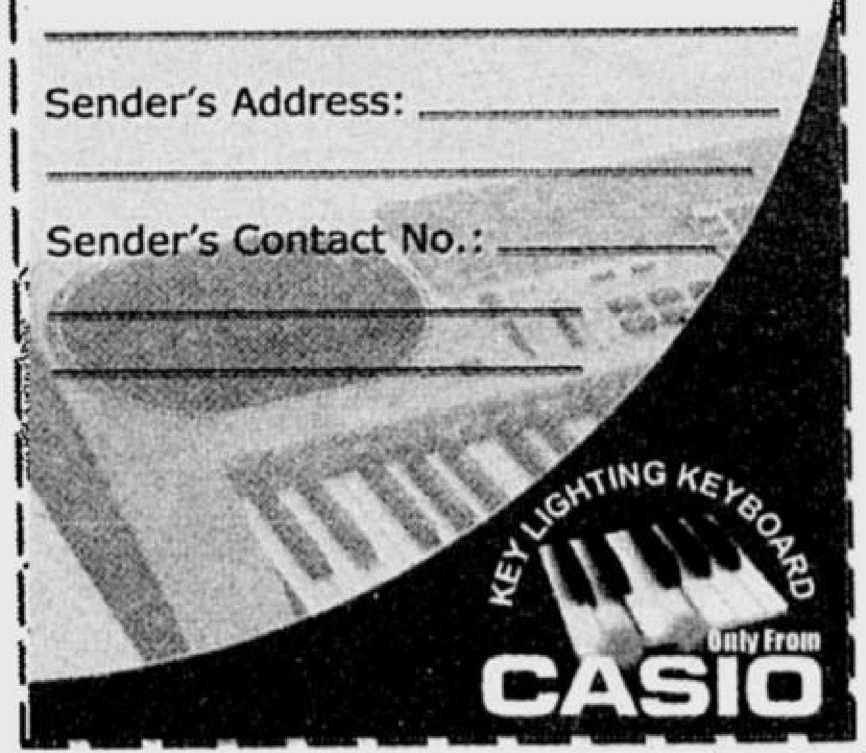


The Best All the Time

For Teacher Ruth, all performances should be good enough for a president

By Eline Santos

"I really enjoy being a teacher," says Ruth Larracas, one of Metrobank's Outstanding Teachers for 2002. "The thought that I can touch, that I can impart something to the children—even if not to kids, fellow faculty teachers too—it gives me a high feeling that I am able to help everyday."

Ruth has been teaching music for 36 years. She composes songs and trains a choir, winning various competitions in the process. Her all-boys choir Coro Angelitos has taken home honors that include first prize in the 1996 District 1 Choral Contest, Manila Children's Choir Contest in 1999, Sayawitan 2000, and Nayong Pilipino's Pastoras Belen in 2000, among many others.

"I'm not after any award. I want to show that work done well has beautiful results."

Whatever job is given her, Ruth always gives her best. "I handle the simplest program as if the president of the Philippines is our audience."

The Boys Choir

"My main goal is to uplift the spirit of our boys because there are many who come from poor families," Ruth explains why she formed Coro Angelitos, the choir based at the Isabelo delos Reyes Elementary School (IRES) where Ruth teaches.

"Many have family, financial and emotional problems. I can really see it." She says some of the boys stop attending practice because "they attend to their basic needs. Some take to selling wares on the streets. Their mothers have no jobs."

Ruth adds, "It has really been my dream to form a boy's choir because I believe in the beauty of a boy's voice after hearing the Vienna Boys Choir."

It took her six years to realize this dream since she first taught at IRES in 1992. "The first time, most of the boys I auditioned didn't come back. They felt then it was so effeminate for a boy to join a choir. So it became an all-girls chorale then."

Slowly the boys trickled in until in 1995 there were 15 boys and 15 girls in the IRES Cherubims. "In 1996, I turned it into an all-boys choir."

Ruth can't quite explain her bias. "Maybe part of it is I have three daughters and no sons," so her male students become like the sons she never had. To be fair to girls, she says, an all-girls choir will be organized again. "We are starting next week."

Through her work, she hopes to inspire the kids who otherwise face serious problems outside. "When you're in my class, I want you to be inspired. Leave your problems for a while and be happy."

OUTSTANDING Teacher Ruth Larracas chills out with her pupils.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my ______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
_ ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm __________
____________________.
I'm__________ years old.
My address is____________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

¿Thinkathon?

SPELL IT "WRITE"

CATALOGUED here are 12 famous writers, Pinoy and otherwise. Can you pick his or her correctly spelled name in each number?

1. ○ Nic Joaquin
○ Nick Joaquin

2. ○ William Shakespeare
○ William Shakespear

3. ○ J. K. Rawling
○ J. K. Rowling

4. ○ Ernest Hemingway
○ Ernest Hemmingway

5. ○ Francisco Baltasar
○ Francisco Baltazar

6. ○ Danielle Steele
○ Danielle Steel

7. ○ Michael Crichton
○ Michael Crickton

8. ○ T. S. Eliot
○ T. S. Elliot

9. ○ Kermina Polotan-Tuvera
○ Kermina Polotan-Tuviera

10. ○ Herman Melville
○ Herman Merville

11. ○ Hans Christian Andersen
○ Hans Christian Anderson

12. ○ Ambet Ocampo
○ Ambeth Ocampo

Answers:

1. Nick Joaquin
2. William Shakespeare
3. J.K. Rowling
4. Ernest Hemingway
5. Francisco Baltazar
6. Danielle Steel
7. Michael Crichton
8. T. S. Eliot
9. Kermina Polotan-Tuvera
10. Herman Melville
11. Hans Christian Andersen
12. Ambeth Ocampo

Ratings:

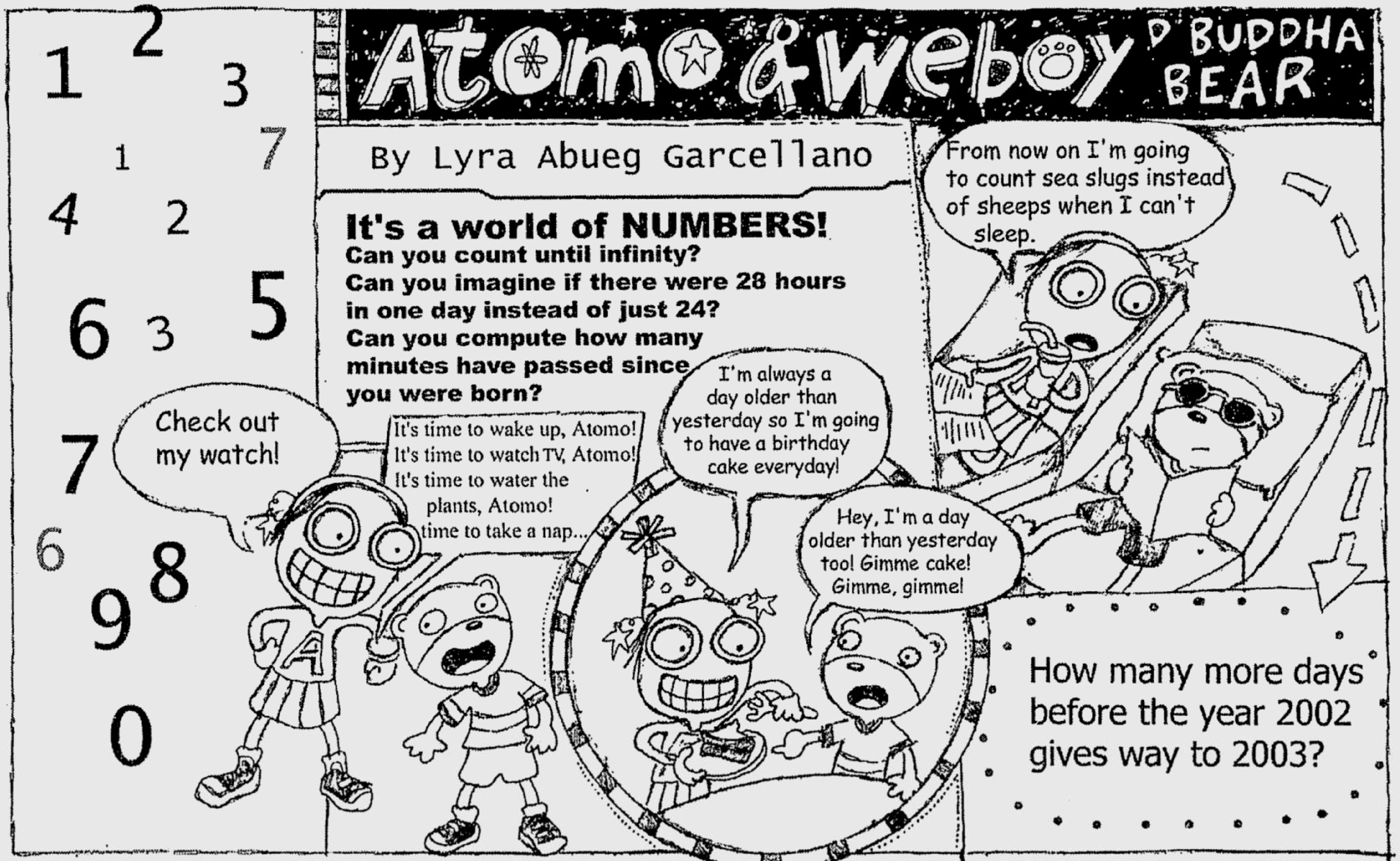
superbrain!
11-12
excellent!
9-10
good!
6-8

Atomo & Weboy D' Buddha Bear

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

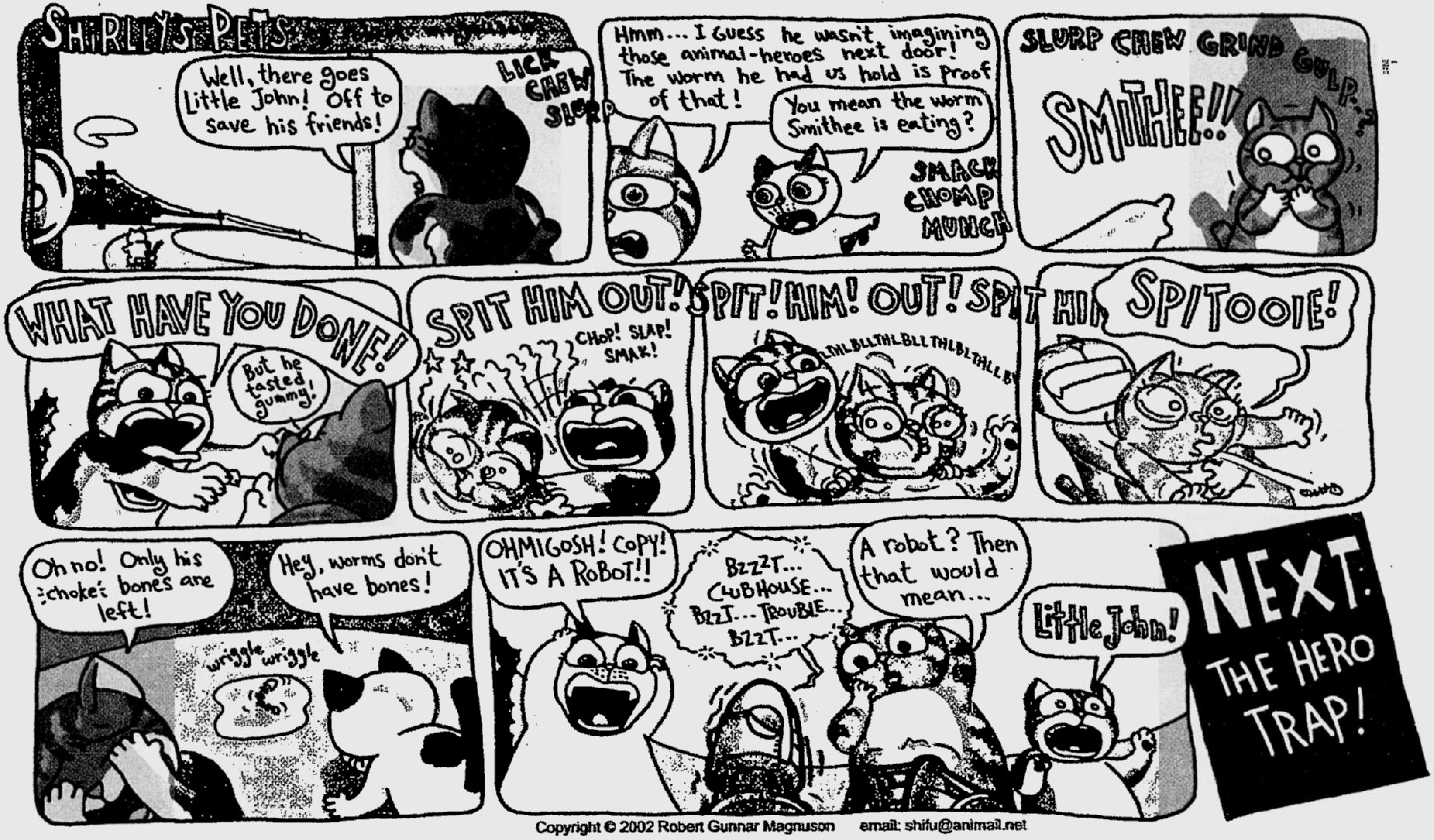
It's a world of NUMBERS!

**Can you count until infinity?
Can you imagine if there were 28 hours in one day instead of just 24?
Can you compute how many minutes have passed since you were born?**


1 2 3 1 7 4 2 6 3 5 7 6 9 8 0
Check out my watch!
It's time to wake up, Atomo! It's time to watch TV, Atomo! It's time to water the plants, Atomo! time to take a nap...
I'm always a day older than yesterday so I'm going to have a birthday cake everyday!
Hey, I'm a day older than yesterday too! Gimme cake! Gimme, gimme!
From now on I'm going to count sea slugs instead of sheeps when I can't sleep.

How many more days before the year 2002 gives way to 2003?

Last Episode: The animal heroes have been defeated by a rival team! Little John fails to reclaim his ring from Sinatra! A battle-weary Elasti-Worm makes his way to Little John! Before fainting, Elasti tells the young cat of the dire fate that has befallen their team! ...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
Well, there goes Little John! Off to save his friends!
LICK CHEW SLURP
Hmm... I guess he wasn't imagining those animal-heroes next door! The worm he had us hold is proof of that!
You mean the worm Smithee is eating?
SMACK CHOMP MUNCH
SLURP CHEW GRIND GULP...?
SMITHEE!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!
But he tasted gummy!
SPIT HIM OUT!
CHOP! SLAP! SMAK!
SPIT! HIM! OUT! SPIT HIM
THLBLLTHLBLLTHLBLTHLLB
SPITOOIE!
Oh no! Only his :choke: bones are left!
Hey, worms don't have bones!
wriggle wriggle
OHMIGOSH! COPY! IT'S A ROBOT!!
BZZZT... CLUBHOUSE... BZZT... TROUBLE... BZZT...
A robot? Then that would mean...
Little John!
NEXT: THE HERO TRAP!

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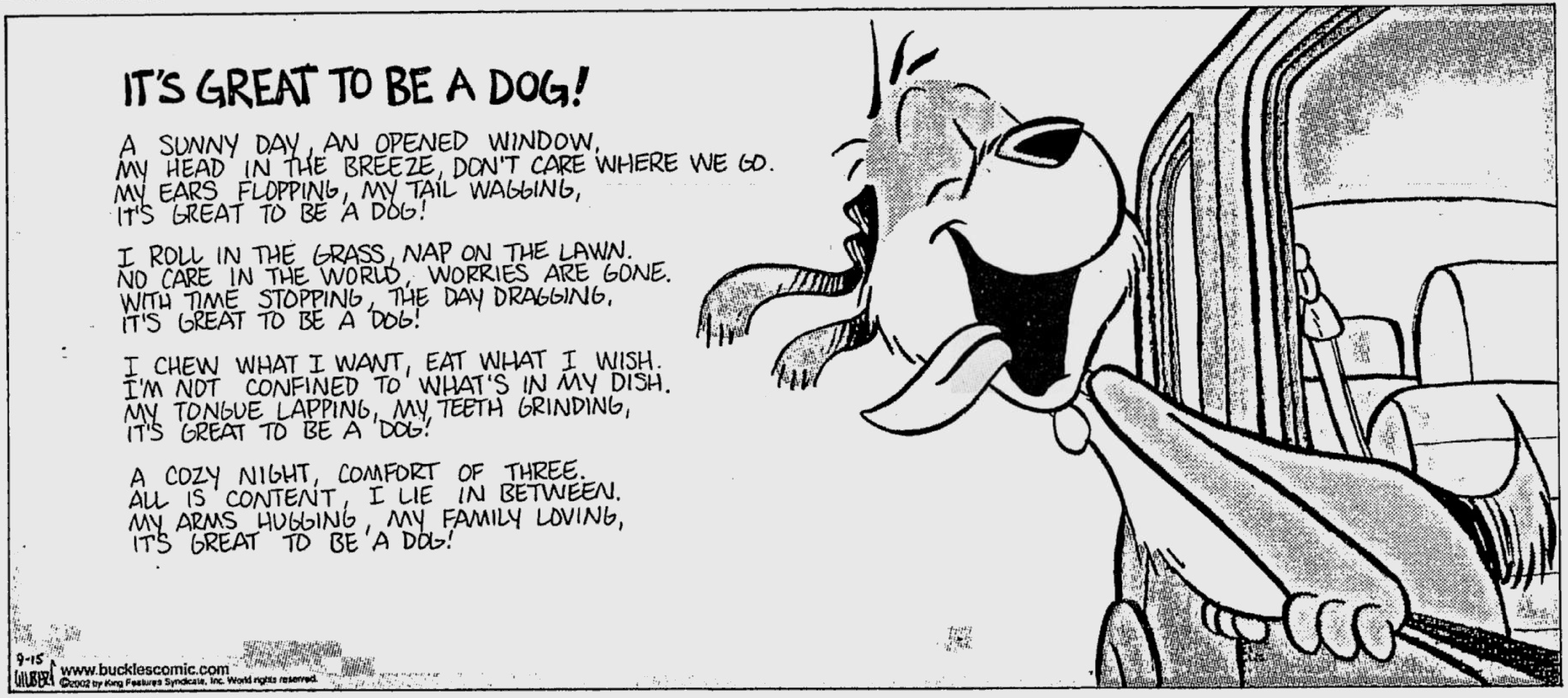
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


IT'S GREAT TO BE A DOG!
A SUNNY DAY, AN OPENED WINDOW,
MY HEAD IN THE BREEZE, DON'T CARE WHERE WE GO.
MY EARS FLOPPING, MY TAIL WAGGING,
IT'S GREAT TO BE A DOG!
I ROLL IN THE GRASS, NAP ON THE LAWN.
NO CARE IN THE WORLD, WORRIES ARE GONE.
WITH TIME STOPPING, THE DAY DRAGGING,
IT'S GREAT TO BE A DOG!
I CHEW WHAT I WANT, EAT WHAT I WISH.
I'M NOT CONFINED TO WHAT'S IN MY DISH.
MY TONGUE LAPPING, MY TEETH GRINDING,
IT'S GREAT TO BE A DOG!
A COZY NIGHT, COMFORT OF THREE.
ALL IS CONTENT, I LIE IN BETWEEN.
MY ARMS HUGGING, MY FAMILY LOVING,
IT'S GREAT TO BE A DOG!
9-15
GILBERT
www.bucklescomic.com

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The Girls' Band Next-Door

(from page 1)

it was a perfect name for the band.

Kaye plays the piano and Kaycee plays the drums while Lyka, Kristiana and Yna help each other in writing the songs.

Band Matters

The girls already have three original songs in their repertoire. They get their inspiration from school, family and friends. Their song "I Want My Own Life" and "We Can Do Anything We Want" tell about the funny moments of being young.

They have lyrics like "I want to eat ice cream/for breakfast, lunch and dinner" and "We can ride our bikes/as long as we like."

Their third song, "While Around the World" is a wishful song about how exciting it would be to tour the world with friends.

Though they sometimes disagree on the lyrics of their songs, Kaycee said, "It's good if you work with people you consider friends because you get along with them easily."

The girls are neighbors in Tandang Sora, Quezon City and the band performs whenever anybody from their group is celebrating a birthday. They also play during special family gatherings.

Cool Angels Forever!!!

Asked where they would like to hold their first concert, Lyka said, "*Sa* Araneta!" Kaye agreed and added, "The tickets would be expensive!" she laughs.

Kaye, Kristiana, Lyka, Kaycee and Yna all agreed that they want the band to last forever because it's really fun to share and express your talents with your friends.

Cool Angels admitted that the only people who know their band exists are their families and neighbors. "But now everybody will know it! Because they'll read all about us on Junior Inquirer!" Kaye giggles. So watch out, friends and classmates because Cool Angels will rock your world!

DO you have a group or school project that really rocks? Let other people know. Contact JI at ji@inquirer.com.ph and tell us all about it!

Making New Friends

(from page 5)

ping, shopping even if it was raining. One of the most fun things for them were the floods.

On their last day, we went to the US Embassy and saw the Ambassador. We were also supposed to go to Malacañang but there were many rallies that day. We were told not to go. We also went to the Senate and saw the Museum. We saw where the impeachment trial was held and even had a picture taken with Senator Sotto.

It was sad when our American friends left. They said that they loved the Philippines. They made many friends here. I will miss them a lot. I hope to keep in touch with them by e-mail so that we can be friends forever.

ICE CREAM
Nestlé
Match & Win
WINNERS
KENNETH DUMALAZA
5 yrs. old
Camarines Sur
PATRICIA SALVADOR
11 yrs. old
Dominican School
BENJAMIN SALVADOR
10 yrs. old
Dominican School
JOY MAMURI
13 yrs. old
Bagong Barangay Elem.
KIRK PAOLO TOLENTINO
5 yrs. old
Naga City
We're giving away more
Nintendo Game Cubes and Tomy Mini R/C cars!
PROMO UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002
Per DOH-BFAD Permit# 0435 Series 2002